LAST OF THE MOHICANS

Based on the novel
by
James Fenimore Cooper

+

1936 Screenplay
by
Philip Dunne

Adapted
by
Michael Mann
and
Christopher Crowe

Screenplay
by
Michael Mann

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1757

"It was a feature peculiar to the Colonial Wars of North America that soldiers...expended months struggling against the rapids or the mountains in quest of an opportunity to exhibit their courage in martial conflict. Emulating the craft and self denial of the native warriors, they learned to overcome every difficulty; and it would seem that in time, there was no recess of the woods so dark, nor any secret place so lovely, that it might claim exemption from the inroads of those who had pledged their blood to satiate their vengeance.

"It was in this scene of strife and bloodshed that the incidents we shall attempt to relate occurred, during the third year of the war which England and France waged for the possession of a country that neither was destined to retain."

James Fenimore Cooper

1 FADE IN 1

The screen is a microcosm of leaf, crystal drops of precipitation, a stone, wood, emerald-green moss. It's a landscape in miniature. We HEAR the forest. Some distant birds. Their sound seems to reverberate as if in a cavern. A piece of sunlight refracts within the drops of water, paints a patch of moss yellow. The whisper of wind is joined by another sound that mixes with it. A distant rustling. It gets closer and louder. It's shallow breathing. It gets ominous. We're interlopers on the floor of the forest and something is coming. SUDDENLY:

2 A MOCCASINED FOOT 2

rockets through the frame scaring us and...

3 EXTREMELY CLOSE: INDIAN FACE 3

running hard. His head shaved bald except for a scalp-lock. Tattoos. He's twenty-five. He's tall with a muscled, rangy build; heavy, even breathing. This man is UNCAS. He is the Last of the Mohicans.

4 PROFILE: UNCAS' ARMS 4

flash as he runs. One carries a flintlock musket. Sweat on the man's skin. A calico shirt is gathered at the waist with a wampum belt of small white beads over a breechcloth. He wears leggings to protect his legs. A long-handled tomahawk is stuffed in his belt.

CUT TO

5 ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - MASSIVE WAR CLUB - DAY 5

in the hand of another running man. He's heavier, older...

6 CHEST 6

A green bear claw is tattooed there. Silver armband. A snake is tattooed over his left eyebrow. Silver rings in his ear. He's forty to forty-five. His head is shaved into a scalp-lock. It says: "Come and lift this from me. Take it, if you can..." That prospect strikes us as extremely unlikely. This man is CHINGACHGOOK. The French call him "Le Gros Serpent," the Great Snake, because "he knows the winding ways of men's nature and he can strike a sudden, deathly blow."

7 WIDE ANGLE: CHINGACHGOOK 7

runs, disturbing no leaves, no branches; making no sound. He's running parallel to Uncas through the cathedral of mature forest. It's heavily canopied. There's very little brush. The girth of the trees is huge. Shafts of light illuminate motes of dust and turn leaves emerald where the sun breaks through. Sometimes there's ferns; rhododendron, sometimes pale grass and outcroppings of rock.

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED 7

These men run the forest streams, over boulders, fallen trees and down into ravines as if they own them. They do.

CUT TO

8 ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - LONG BLACK HAIR - DAY 8

rocketing through trees. His torn buckskin shirt is tied at the waist with a wampum belt holding a tomahawk and a large knife. A long rifle in which is carved the name "Killdeer" is in his right fist. Indian tattooing on his chest. His name is NATHANIEL POE. He's a few years older than Uncas. The French and the French-speaking tribes know him as La Longue Carabine (Long Rifle). Other frontiersmen in New York Colony and the Iroquois and Delaware-speaking tribes know him as Hawkeye. Sweat stains his shirt. He flashes through tree branches disturbing nothing. Making no sound.

9 HAWKEYE'S POV: A PIECE OF TAN 9

two hundred and fifty yards away, a few square inches buried in the foliage...

10 SUDDENLY HE STOPS 10

Killdeer's at his shoulder...

11 HAWKEYE'S THUMB 11

cocks the lock holding the piece of flint: click.

12 UNCAS 12

stops dead, holding out his hand...no sound.

13 CHINGACHGOOK 13

slips through young trees and stops, shouldering his smoothbore musket. Is this an ambush?

14 HAWKEYE'S POV: RACK FOCUS THROUGH THE GUN SIGHT 14

Five feet and fourteen pounds of rifle is elevated a half inch and shifted left, <u>off</u> target. It's a precise, smooth movement. No human quiver.

15 KILLDEER'S TRIGGER 15

tighter...

16 THE COCK 16

holding the flint hits the iron file of the frizzen, shooting sparks into the pan of priming powder which flashes and...

17 TAN 17

is a huge elk that leaps at the sound of the lock.

18 KILLDEER'S MUZZLE 18

CRACKS like lightning.

19 ELK 19

leaps where the .59 caliber round was programmed to intercept him. On the moment of impact...

20 SUDDEN REVEAL: CHINGACHGOOK 20

The massive war club is flat and angles to one side with a stabbing blade, like a wide spear-point, imbedded on the oblique edge.

21 HAWKEYE 21

emerges.

22 UNCAS 22

coming forward.

23 WIDE 23

The three men approach the fallen elk and each other. We realize they're hunting together. Hawkeye steps aside in deference to Chingachgook. Hawkeye is stepson and stepbrother. The two younger men treat Chingachgook with the deference due a respected and formidable father. Hawkeye's a dialectic of two cultures. In his coloration and worldliness he's more the Anglo-Saxon frontiersman. In his independent views and candid manner and in his combat skills and woodsmanship, he's more native American (Mohican). As Chingachgook takes out his long knife and they approach the fallen elk...

CHINGACHGOOK
(low Mohican; subtitled)
We're sorry to kill you, Brother. Forgive us. I do honor to your courage and speed, your strength...

CUT TO

24 INT. CAMERON CABIN - JOHN CAMERON - NIGHT 24

roasts potatoes on a stick in the stone fireplace next to CAPTAIN JACK WINTHROP, an American in very worn quasi-military gear. On a rough table in the tiny cabin ALEXANDRA, his Mohawk wife, is kneading bread. Three children climb on their father. He grabs their wild seven year old son, JAMES, who shrieks laughter and dodges away. The cabin has two primitive rooms, waxed paper windows, quarter-timbered walls. O.S. a dog barks. Others pick it up. Cameron and Jack are suddenly alert, reaching for weapons...

CUT TO

25 EXT. CAMERON CABIN, FENCE - CHINGACHGOOK - NIGHT 25

CHINGACHGOOK
Halloo! John Cameron!

Behind him, emerging from the dark trees are Hawkeye, Uncas cradling flint locks, blankets and packs over their shoulders, leading a mule laden with skins and the elk carcass.

26 DOORWAY: CAMERON'S 26

at the doorway, musket in hand. Towards the interior:

CAMERON
Alexandra!
(beat)
Set three more places.
(to the gate)
How is Chingachgook, then?

Crossing the splitrail fence...

CHINGACHGOOK
The Master of Life is good. Another year passed... How is it with you, John Cameron?

CAMERON
Gettin' along. Yes, it is.
(warm)
Nathaniel.

HAWKEYE
Hello John! Cleared another quarter, I see.

CAMERON
(shakes hand with Uncas)
Yes I did.

27 JAMES CAMERON 27

tears past his father and runs full bore. Just before he's going to collide into Uncas, he leaps into the air and Uncas snatches him with one hand and swings him up onto his shoulders. The kid screams with delight and rides back towards the cabin that way.

CUT TO

28 INT. CABIN - ALEXANDRA CAMERON - EVENING (LATER) 28

The men have settled in the small cabin. Chingachgook smokes a clay pipe. The scene says: this is a rustic, frontier home and these people have known each other a long while and live in dangerous conditions.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED 28

ALEXANDRA
(from the fireplace)
Uncas is with you. That means he has not found a wife.

CHINGACHGOOK
Alexandra Cameron I wish you better luck with sons. Uncas, Hawkeye...
(disgusted)
...fly woman to woman. Women go from man to man.
(Uncas laughs)
Your farm good to you this year, John Cameron?

CAMERON
It was a good year for corn.

UNCAS
One field we saw is five mile long on the river. Chief Joseph Brandt's field.

CAMERON
You take lots of fur?

HAWKEYE
That we did, John.

UNCAS
But the horicane is nearly trapped out.

JACK
Tradin' in New London?

HAWKEYE
Schenectady. With the Dutch for silver. English and French are only payin' in wampum and brandy any more.

A pause, then:

HAWKEYE
(continuing)
So what is it, Jack?

JACK
A French army, some Canadiens and a few thousand Huron, Ottawa and whatnot, have come down from Quebec to Lake Champlain and crossed the border to go to war.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED (2) 28

JACK (Cont'd)
English levied New York colony to raise a civilian militia.

HAWKEYE
How much of the county you figure will join the fight?

JACK
Maybe half. Twin River Mohawks are marchin'; Seneca and Onandaga sittin' it out.
(beat)
What about you all?

CHINGACHGOOK
The fathers of England and France are filled with greed and care only about taking more land and furs than they need.

HAWKEYE
England started it with France over fur tradin' rights on the Upper Ohio. It's got nothin' to do with plain folks here.

JACK
True. But England's the motherland. And I'd rather fight fifty miles north of here than in my bean field.

HAWKEYE
And what if they hole you up in Fort William Henry and swing war parties around the fort to rip up the settlements?

JACK
I hadn't thought of that. That's as big point. Speakin' to Webbin Albany tomorrow. So...

CAMERON
(decides)
I am stayin' to protect my family. Any from around here who go, tell 'em their women and children are welcome to fort-up with us 'til they come back.

JACK
I will.
(beat)
Where do you plan to winter?

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED (3) 28

UNCAS
With Delaware cousins living among Shawnee peoples in Can-tuck-ee.

Cameron laughs.

JACK
Gonna marry you off for real this time, then!

UNCAS
If only so my father and brother leave me alone, I'll take any Delaware woman young enough to bear me children.

James attacks Uncas again.

JAMES
Like me?

Uncas grabs James and puts him on his lap.

UNCAS
No! You are too strong. Turn me old too fast!

The kid's laughing and can't stay still. Hawkeye grabs him. Chingachgook watches, content, smoking his clay pipe.

ALEXANDRA
That's what he's doin' to me...

She ruffles his hair and lifts the heavy iron pot off the tibbet. Uncas goes to help her, she bats his hand away and carries it to the table herself. She doesn't need any help. The men gather around the table. There's pan-baked bread, a dish of salt and the pot has venison and yellow gruel in a kind of stew. Everyone waits.

CAMERON
Dear Father, thank you for rewardin' the fruits of our labor with plenty. Amen.

As they start to eat...

CUT TO

29 thru 35C OMITTED 29 thru 35C

36 EXT. BRITISH ENCAMPMENT, PARADE GROUND - SIX HUNDRED 62ND REGIMENT OF FOOT - DAY 36

in two rows. At each command the crack troops respond en masse. Their hands slap the stocks of their brown bess muskets in unison. The Dutch roof lines of Albany are in the distance. These men are drilling in preparation for war.

REGIMENTAL SGT. MAJOR
(shouts)
Shoulder arms!
(slam)
Order arms! Handle cartridge!
(men bite the paper)
Prime!
(powder dropped in pan)
Load! Draw ramrods! Ram cartridge! Return ramrod! Make ready!
(muskets at chest height)
Pre-sent!
(muskets shouldered)
Make ready!
(muskets returned to chests)
Pre-sent!
(muskets returned to shoulder)
Fire!

Like a single shot, six hundred black powder muskets fire .65 caliber lead shot at chest height in a scythe of death through a massive cloud of smoke. They are a killing machine.

SERGEANT MAJOR
Prime! Load!

In the background beyond the drill a coach races past.

CUT TO

36A EXT. ROAD - HORSES GALLOP - DAY 36A

Six horses, wide with dumb, mute strain. Foam, manes fly, their hooves pound the yellow road into dust.

CUT TO

37 INT. COACH - MAJOR DUNCAN HEYWARD - DAY 37

in the brilliant scarlet coat of the First Royal Regiment of Foot with gold braid, black facing and black breeches, cavalry boots, spurs, a tricorn hat, white wig and a gorget (large medallion) around his neck. He's in his early thirties and tough. He is arrogant, principled and reactionary. He believes human society is divided into hierarchies of class and they are absolutely static.

CONTINUED

37 CONTINUED 37

He is patriotric and militarily first-rate in his milieu: the open battlefields of Europe. Right now, however, he is in the forests of North America. As he pulls into Albany...

CUT TO

38 thru 40 OMITTED 38 thru 40

41 INT. BRITISH HQ, ASSEMBLY ROOM - ON HEYWARD - DAY 41

entering mid-scene. An enlisted man comes to attention. An argument is raging and immediately takes Heyward's attention.

JACK (O.S.)
...if they ain't allowed to leave to go and defend their families if the French or Hurons swing around William Henry and attack the settlements, they ain't goin'! And I have no real power...and neither do you...to order those boys to march off to much of anywhere.

HEYWARD
(low)
You, there,. Help my man outside with the baggage.

GENERAL JEROME WEBB sees Heyward and nods. Three of Webb's Adjutants are on either side. Four Grenadiers in bearskin-covered mitred caps, are at the door. Facing him are a half dozen colonial representatives including by Captain Jack Winthrop. Heyward watches Jack...

LIEUTENANT
The Crown has levied a militia from every county!

LARGE COLONIAL REP
To any of the boys who are any good in the first place, they don't care what you levied!

LIEUTENANT
(rises)
They will be pressed into service! They will not refuse to serve!

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED 41

WEBB
(cuts in)
I cannot imagine his Majesty, in his benevolence, would ever object to his American subjects defending their hearth and home, their women and children, if threatened by the "scourge" of attack from savages, aroused to such excess by our enemy, the ever-perfidious French.

JACK
Does that mean they would be granted leave if the settlements are attacked?

WEBB
Yes.

JACK
General Webb, you got yourself an American colonial militia.

Heyward's amazed by what he's just heard. These Americans, including Jack, are streaming past him on their way out. He looks at them curiously, then snaps to attention:

HEYWARD
Major Duncan Heyward reporting, Sir!

Webb's pouring gin.

WEBB
Duncan. How was your journey?

The door closes. Dispatches are passed. They are now alone except for the General's two Adjutants, the omnipresent guard and a shadowy form waiting patiently in a corner. He's MAGUA and in the dim light, he's motionless. Webb slides a glass across to Heyward.

HEYWARD
I didn't experience anything so surprising from Bristol to Albany as what I witnessed here today.

WEBB
And what is that?

HEYWARD
The Crown "negotiating" the terms of service?

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED (2) 41

WEBB
I know.
(assuming a co-commiserator)
One has to give Americans "reasons" and make agreements to get them to do anything at all.
(throws up his hands)
Tiring, isn't it? But that's the way of it here.

HEYWARD
(tight)
I thought British policy is 'Make the World...England.'

A chill. Majors don't upbraid generals.

WEBB
You will take command of the 62nd Regiment of Foot. At Fort William Henry under Colonel Munro. I will march the 33rd to Fort Edward.
(to Adjutants)
Explain to the Major we have little need of militia in the first place because there's little to fear from the French and their commander, this Marquis de Montcalm in the second. The French have not the nature for war. Their Latinate voluptuousness undermines their Gallic laziness with the result: they would rather eat or make love with their faces than fight.

Webb's Adjutants laugh uproariously at his wit. Heyward smiles. He does not share Webb's derisive view of the French. Webb doesn't like Heyward's manner. We don't like Webb. Then:

HEYWARD
Might I inquire if General Webb has heard from Colonel Munro's daughters?

WEBB
You may.
(to Magua, after a glance at Heyward)
You there. What does Munro call you?
(to Heyward)
The "Scotsman" has sent you one of his Indian allies to escort you.

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED (3) 41

MAGUA
Magua.

WEBB
Magua... You're a...

MAGUA
Born Huron. Live with Mohawk. Now Mohawk.

WEBB
Munro's daughters are at the Poltroon's house. They'll accompany you to Fort William Henry with a Magua and a company of the 33rd.

42 thru 44 OMITTED 42 thru 44

45 MAGUA 45

rises and slowly walks into the light. He is sullen and over six feet tall. His head is shaved into a mohawk. Rings, beads and feathers pierce his ears. A blanket is worn as a shawl over his left shoulder exposing his right arm and heavy tattooing. A long tomahawk is in the belt of his breechcloth.

HEYWARD
(to Magua)
Dawn. At the encampment. Six a.m. sharp. See to it you're there.

Beneath his barely deferential manner we sense an imposing intelligence. Magua exits.

HEYWARD
By your leave, sir.

WEBB
Dismissed.

Heyward stiffly salutes. Webb salutes the younger man in return.

CUT TO

46 EXT. POLTROON'S HOUSE - DUNCAN HEYWARD - DAY 46

brushed clean, his wig freshly powdered, his tricorn in his hand with a crimson sash and sword and his cavalry boots, walks through the gate after knocking. He enters a small courtyard. Suddenly he hears...

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED 46

CORA (O.S.)
Heyward! Duncan Heyward.

Heyward looks to the side. An inner light turns on. In this mode, this is a man we could like.

46A REVERSE: CORA MUNRO 46A

enters from the garden. She's vivacious, dark-haired, unconventionally educated but with conventional attitudes. She hugs Duncan to her and then pushes him away to look at him:

HEYWARD
My God it's good to see you.

He takes her hand in both of his and kisses it.

CUT TO

47 thru 49 OMITTED 47 thru 49

50 EXT. POLTROON'S HOUSE, BACK YARD - CORA + HEYWARD - DAY 50

A vegetable plot behind the Poltroon's house is a provincial substitute for a formal garden setting. Heyward and Cora sit on rough wooden chairs. In the background a servant hangs laundry. The white sheets billow. A stool holds a tea setting. They're sitting close to each other, talking seriously and quietly. Time's passed. Long pause. Then:

CORA
I'm embarrassed to be so indecisive...

HEYWARD
(smiles)
I've traveled half the globe to ask this question.

CORA
(difficult)
My affection is as towards a dearest friend. Alice and I depend on you and respect you immensely, Duncan...but my feelings don't go beyond that.

HEYWARD
Isn't respect and friendship, a reasonable basis for a man and woman to be joined? And all else will grow in time...?

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 50

CORA
Others have told me that is the way of it.

HEYWARD
"Others"?

CORA
Cousin Eugenie, my father.

HEYWARD
(interrupts)
Cora, then let those whom you trust, your father, help settle what's best. In view of your indecision, why not rely on their advice and judgment...?
(pause)
And mine. In my heart I know once we're joined we'll be the happiest couple in England.

Cora stares directly at Heyward. Then she looks away. She has no answer.

HEYWARD
Will you consider that?

CORA
(pause; smiles)
Yes. I will. I will consider what you've said.

ALICE (O.S.)
Duncan!

50A REVERSE: ALICE MUNRO 50A

eighteen years old, white-blonde hair, wide blue eyes. She's effervescent.

ALICE
I can't believe it.

She runs and hugs him. Heyward is taken aback by her enthusiasm and laughs.

HEYWARD
My God, you've grown up.

ALICE
We leave in the morning?!

HEYWARD
(rises)
Yes, miss.

CONTINUED

50A CONTINUED 50A

ALICE
I won't sleep tonight. What an adventure! Have you seen the savages?

HEYWARD
Mohawks?

ALICE
They're "domesticated." I meant the ones in the countryside. I absolutely cannot wait to return to Portman Square, having laid eyes upon full-blooded, red men in the wild!

CORA
My God, Alice.

HEYWARD
It can be dangerous...

ALICE
Nonsense. Papa wouldn't have sent for us if it were dangerous.

Alice takes Heyward's hand. Cora pours Heyward more tea. The white sheets billow.

CUT TO

52 EXT. BRITISH ARMY HQ - TWENTY BRITISH REGULARS - DAY 52

standing idly, waiting to embark. They all wear full packs, mitred hats, rolled blankets, brown bess muskets.

Magua watches the preparations. A small number of idlers and bystanders at a respectful distance watch the horses and admire the bone and blood of a large white military charger. They wait. Then...

53 MILITARY HQ, ENTRANCE - SERGEANT MAJOR AMBROSE 53

enters.

AMBROSE
(on the move; barks)
Atten-hut!!

54 REVERSE: BRIT REGULARS 54

jolt upright as if electrified.

AMBROSE
(entering)
Shoulder arms!

CONTINUED

54 CONTINUED 54

Muskets slam to shoulders. AMBROSE - a sergeant major of forty-one - is wide and deep and built like a fullback. You do not fuck with Sgt. Major Ambrose.

AMBROSE
(barks)
Form two companies of nine...MARCH!!

55 THE MEN 55

march in perfect drill into two groups, each three across and three deep. There's a gap between the two groups. With their chalked whites, tall mitred hats, five and a half foot long muskets, they look formidable.

56 MILITARY HQ, ENTRANCE - MAJOR DUNCAN HEYWARD 56

steps out. Rigid salutes. Cora and Alice enter from the interior. They're in riding dresses and veils. The veil doesn't completely cover Alice's golden hair and blue eyes and the flush of her complexion. Heyward helps them onto their sidesaddled Narragansetts. The tight traveling dress reveals that Cora, two or three years older than Alice, is fuller and more mature.

57 HEYWARD 57

climbs onto his white military charger. It's spirited. All three wave at the officer watching their departure from the threshold of the large log cabin. They ride to the front of the column. The baggage horses and mule are led by the two remaining regulars in the gap between the two companies.

58 MAGUA 58

cradling his musket.

59 REAR SHOT: THE COLUMN 59

down the path that leads into the wall of forest looks impressive.

60 WIDER: THE COLUMN 60

marching. Now they look brave but smaller. The forest - with all its mysteries and dangers - now impresses us as towering and dark, and it swallows up the living mass which slowly enters its bosom.

CUT TO

61 INT. FOREST 61

TRACKING the Redcoats, their faces now filmed with dust, cut by lines of perspiration. They march in perfect formation.

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED 61

We TRACK PAST the pack horses, the first company, Sgt. Major Ambrose and on to Cora and Alice. Alice seems fatigued. Cora's turned, looking up into the forest canopy, astonished at the deep beauty of the place.

62 CORA'S POV: FOREST CANOPY 62

of trees is dark, except for spots where leaves are sparse, and there the light is golden. It's the forest of childhood.

In a ravine a buck disappears into a deeper stand of trees.

CORA (O.S.)
Alice, did you see that...? *

63 CORA'S 63

reverie's broken by Heyward entering the frame. *

CORA
Alice?

Alice rouses from fatigue.

HEYWARD
Are you alright? *

ALICE
Duncan. I'm tired... Will we rest soon? *

HEYWARD
I'll see.

Heyward rides to the front of the column to Magua, who's twenty to thirty yards ahead of everybody else. *

HEYWARD
You there, Scout!

Magua slowly turns towards Heyward.

HEYWARD
(overly articulated) *
We must...stop...soon. Women are...tired. You...understand? *

MAGUA
(perfect English)
Magua understand. This is not good place to stop. Two leagues from here. No water 'til then. *
That where we stop.

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED 63

HEYWARD
We will stop in the glade ahead! Then, when the ladies are rested, we will proceed. Do you understand?

MAGUA
(in Huron: English subtitle)
"Magua understand paleface is a dog to his women. And when his women want to eat, he lay aside his tomahawk to feed their laziness."

HEYWARD
Excuse me. What did you say?

MAGUA
Magua say: "Yes. Good idea."

As they begin to stop...

CUT TO

64 OMITTED 64

65 EXT. MOUNTAINS + FOREST - WIDE - DAY 65

Silently entering on either side of us come Chingachgook, followed by Hawkeye and Uncas. Even relaxed they carry themselves with a degree of alertness. They're eighteenth century Viet Cong moving through the rain forest. The Maxfield Parrish/Hudson Valley of tall trees, ravines and streams is idyllic in front of them. All three cradle their long guns and move silently on moccasined feet.

66 FRONTAL: CHINGACHGOOK 66

- in a stream - relaxed but attentive, abruptly stops. The others freeze in their tracks. Chingachgook sees and then stoops to examine...

67 ROCK 67

under the water in the stream. It's been turned from its bed. Chingachgook finds another. Uncas, moving up on his flank, climbs the bank and moves off into the trees, searches and then he gestures...he's found another sign of passage.

68 CHINGACHGOOK 68

has headed off further down the stream and discovers nothing. Rapidly he rejoins Uncas and Hawkeye who've become extremely alert. They move up the bank into the forest ninety degrees from their previous path.

69 UNCAS 69

touches his head and signifies the Huron scalp-lock pattern and opens his fist twice indicating ten men.

70 TRACKING: HAWKEYE, UNCAS + CHINGACHGOOK 70

moving. Fast. Nearly soundless. They hardly disturb a blade of grass. The impression: expertise, deadliness and an impression something's wrong. *

CUT TO

71 EXT. FOREST, TRAIL - MAGUA - DAY 71

on point. The trail cuts the side of a hill. The ground on one side rises into a forested acclivity and on the other falls off into a forested ravine. Magua walking towards camera.

72 CLOSER - MAGUA'S 72

slid his tomahawk out from the front of the belt that girdles his waist. Like a snake, he lets the shaft drop into his hand. He shrugs off his blanket. There is a solidity to his dark, tall figure we didn't see before. Magua turns about face and advances on the column. TRACK WITH Magua. Heyward and the Munro girls pass the camera as does Sgt. Major Ambrose, marching in advance of the men. Magua is approaching the soldier on the left in the first row. We see Magua has caught the Redcoat's eye.

73 REDCOAT 73

is curious, starts to smile. What does the Huron want to say to him? When Magua is two steps away he caves in the side of the infantryman's head at the temple with the butt end of his tomahawk, howls a war cry and, backhanded, hacks the blade sideways, into the back of the neck of the center man in the first row. *

74 SIMULTANEOUSLY 74

thirteen muskets EXPLODE from the wooded rise.

75 FIVE REDCOATS 75

are blown off the path, two others are wounded...

76 AMBROSE 76

AMBROSE
Form company! Left face! March!

77 ALICE 77

shrieks. Cora grabs Alice's reins and her own.

78 HEYWARD 78

pulling his fusil (short musket), seeing, firing, reaching for the women...

79 CORA'S HORSE 79

bucking.

80 ALICE'S HORSE 80

bolting, dodging sideways, spilling Alice to the earth.

81 AMBROSE 81

AMBROSE
Company make ready!

The regulars slam into a firing line, stepping over the bodies of their comrades. All thirteen face the incline.

82 thru 86 OMITTED 82 thru 86

86A FORESTED RISE - HURONS 86A

flash downhill through the trees. Partnered in two-man teams, they load and fire; cover and advance. Leaping fallen trees and boulders, they're athletic, fast and getting closer. Even though the disciplined English regulars are a killing machine, we now see their tactics in the forest are grossly inferior to the Hurons'... *

87 CORA 87

covers Alice with her body, holding the reins of their bolting horses. *

88 HEYWARD 88

from horseback aims his horse pistol, FIRES...

89 AN ATTACKING HURON 89

drops near Alice and Cora.

AMBROSE
Present !!

90 OMITTED 90

91 MULE 91

with baggage crashes off, down through the ravine. Another two Redcoats drop. Nine left. Then eight. *

92 AMBROSE 92

AMBROSE
Fire!!

93 REVERSE: 93

Only one Huron was exposed and hit. The English rush to complete the reload. Will they do it in time?

AMBROSE
Load! Load!
(beat)
Present...!

Some are still loading as the Hurons - en masse - crash into the Redcoats with tomahawks, war clubs and point-blank musket fire. They decimate the British soldiers.

94 ALICE 94

on the ground, screaming insanely, covered by Cora who's protecting her little sister, and...

95 HEYWARD'S 95

horse is shot from beneath him. The animal folding, falling straight to the earth, and...

96 MAGUA 96

shoots Ambrose in the chest, and...

97 HEYWARD 97

by the Munro daughters spins, swinging his fusil like a ball-bat, upending one Huron and lunges with his bayonet in his left towards another. But this Huron easily avoids the thrust and slams Heyward with his rifle butt.

98 BRITISH 98

dead and dying.

99 AMBROSE 99

blood gushing from his chest wound, fires his pistol, dropping a Huron; slashes a second with his sword. Then he's chopped into Swiss steak. Hurons begin scalping the British while four race towards Heyward and the two women.

100 HEYWARD + CORA + ALICE 100

being rushed; ready to die. The one Heyward shot is struggling up. Heyward has only his fusil as a bludgeon. He readies...about to go down fighting...

101 THREE LOUD SHOTS 101

BLOW three Hurons sideways, head over heels down the rise.

102 REVERSE: 102

Uncas, Chingachgook and Nathaniel, now running across the fall line of the ravine. Nathaniel rams another ball into Killdeer. Uncas with his long tomahawk in one hand is in a full downhill run.

103 CHINGACHGOOK 103

a fast, irrevocable force through small trees, his huge war club is in his fists.

103A HURON 103A

doesn't know where the shots came from. Suddenly Chingachgook bats him, head first into the ravine with the war club. He didn't even slow down.

104 UNCAS 104

tomahawks a Huron warrior's shoulder. The Huron swings downwards. Uncas ducks beneath the swing and slashes his throat, sending him downhill into CAMERA as...

104A HAWKEYE'S 104A

momentum and thrown tomahawk take down one Huron, and wounded Redcoats fight on as...

105 OMITTED 105

106 MAGUA 106

sees the odds have changed. His rage becomes focused and he commits a very revealing act. We will remember it. He raises his musket and aims at...

107 CORA MUNRO 107

Why is he singling out a Munro girl to kill?

108 HAWKEYE 108

sees. Killdeer snaps to his shoulder as...

109 TIME SLOWS: MAGUA 109

senses Hawkeye. Moving through liquid, his eyes drift left. The moment is frozen. Their eyes lock. Then...

110 TIME UNFREEZES 110

Magua swings at Hawkeye and FIRES...

111 HAWKEYE 111

shifts. The .65 caliber musket ball rockets past his ear and he's already squeezing Killdeer's trigger as...

112 HAWKEYE'S POV OVER BARREL: SMOKE 112

from Magua's musket blast clears. Magua's gone. He almost shape-shifted, it happened so quickly. It's nearly mystical.

113 HAWKEYE 113

lowers Killdeer, impressed. Meanwhile...

113A CHINGACHGOOK 113A

pursues two fleeing Huron up the incline. Two strides gain him the first man, who he hamstrings and runs over to pursue the second up the hill...as...

114 HEYWARD'S 114

aiming a found musket at an Indian's back. We recognize it's Chingachgook pursuing the second Huron up the hill...

CORA
Duncan! He's not one of them!

Duncan ignores her.

115 HEYWARD'S MUSKET 115

is jerked from his hands by...

115A HAWKEYE 115A

HAWKEYE
...case your aim is any better'n your judgment.

The musket's pointed at Heyward's chest, who's drawn his sword but now freezes. And Hawkeye FIRES, killing an attacking Huron just behind Heyward.

116 CHINGACHGOOK'S WAR CLUB 116

flashes up the hill. It cleaves the back of the second man's head and bowls him over. Chingachgook retrieves his club as his scalping knife slashes down...

117 UNCAS 117

scalps the man he killed. Chingachgook dispatches the Huron he hamstrung.

118 WIDE 118

Heyward's frozen. The women are as terrified of the savages who've rescued them as they were of those who attacked them. The whole horror show only took twenty seconds.

118A ALICE 118A

is nearly catatonic. Cora, holding her, is stunned but functioning. Moments ago both women were clean and demurely attired. Now their riding dresses are torn, mud-stained, blood-splattered and their baggage is gone.

119 HEYWARD 119

has crossed to his slaughtered troops. Moments ago they were a testimonial to British military prowess. Now they're dead meat. Ambrose's body is against a tree. In the B.G. two of the wounded start to rise, look to Heyward...

ALICE (O.S.)
Make him stop!

Heyward spins.

120 UNCAS 120

just cut the throat of the second Narraganset.

ALICE
(attacking Uncas)
We need the horses to get out of here! We have to go back!

Uncas gently restrains her. Cora grabs Alice away from the "savage."

HEYWARD
(re: Uncas)
...the hell he do that to the horses for?!

Uncas has left the dead horses and is now quickly reloading, lifting powder horns, scanning the trees.

UNCAS
(matter of fact)
...too easy to track...they can be heard for miles.

Cora's surprised by Uncas' English. Hawkeye's scanning the forest.

HAWKEYE
(to Heyward)
Those two, there, alive, should try walkin' back to Albany. They'll never make a passage north.

HEYWARD
(breathless)
We were headed...

CONTINUED

120 CONTINUED 120

HAWKEYE
(appropriating a knife)
...William Henry.

121 thru 123 OMITTED 121 thru 123

124 CHINGACHGOOK 124

to Hawkeye: let's go... Then a fast exchange of Delaware. Uncas agrees. Chingachgook looks at the survivors, gives his assent, starts off.

HAWKEYE
...take you as far as the fort.

Hawkeye throws Heyward a musket. Cora and Alice look at Heyward. The women are totally dependent on him and terrified of these men.

HAWKEYE
And we need to be movin' away from here fast. And it is well out of our way.
(beat)
So if you are preferring to wait for the next Huron war party to arrive, we will go back about our business...

Heyward decides to go. The women follow close on Heyward. Hawkeye starts off after Uncas and Chingachgook.

CUT TO

125 OMITTED 125

126 EXT. FOREST - HAWKEYE - DAY 126

moves through the trackless forest. Uncas is far out on the left flank. Cora, Alice and Duncan Heyward follow in Hawkeye's and Chingachgook's steps...

131 HAWKEYE'S FEET 131

walking through a creek, stepping in the stream bed instead of on stones. The others follow. Hawkeye looks at Heyward. 127 thru 130

127 thru 130 OMITTED 130

132 HEYWARD 132

conforms. And he's ill at ease not being in command, following the lead of trailing some half-Indian frontiersman through a foreign wilderness.

CONTINUED

132 CONTINUED 132

HEYWARD
How far is it, scout?

133 WIDEN 133

HAWKEYE
Day and a half.
(pause)
Where did you get...the Indian?

HEYWARD
Colonel Munro sent him. Mohawk warrior.

HAWKEYE
He is Huron and nothing else.
(checking the Munro girls are not too close)
Any reason he would have for murdering the girl?

HEYWARD
What?!

HAWKEYE
Dark-haired...

HEYWARD
Miss Cora Munro. No. None. He's never set eyes on them before today.

HAWKEYE
No blood vengeance? No re-proach or insult?

HEYWARD
Of course not!
(pause)
How is it you were nearby?

HAWKEYE
Came across a war party, tracked 'em.

HEYWARD
Then you're assigned to Fort William Henry?

HAWKEYE
No.

HEYWARD
Fort Edward, then?

CONTINUED

133 CONTINUED 133

HAWKEYE
No. Headin' west.

HEYWARD
I thought all our colonial scouts were in the militia?

Off to the side, Uncas smiles at the idea.

HAWKEYE
I am not your "scout." And I am in no militia.

HEYWARD
Then you are one of those who would allow England to stand and fight alone while she protects you from France?

HAWKEYE
England don't protect us from France. Not on our account. She uses us to war against France on her own account of greed... for land and furs.

134 CORA'S 134

heard. She's appalled.

HAWKEYE
That clear it up?

HEYWARD
(loud)
Yes. The talk of a seditioner! I owe you gratitude or I'd call you out!

HAWKEYE
(turns)
Don't let gratitude get in the way...

Cora's hand holds back Heyward's sword arm because suddenly Chingachgook looms over him.

CHINGACHGOOK
(to Hawkeye)
Yengeese no good in woods. Make more noise, I kill him.

Heyward spins. Hawkeye coolly watches Cora. Her attitude is hostile; aligned with Heyward. He turns away. Meanwhile...

135 UNCAS 135

stops, alarmed. Something in the air bothers him. Hawkeye smells it, too.

136 CHINGACHGOOK 136

is already moving out front, low and fast...

CUT TO

137 EXT. FOREST, TREE LINE - GREEN BRANCHES - DAY 137

After we HOLD, we realize Chingachgook's been there all along. * Hawkeye and Uncas join him where the branches meet the ground. Smoke drifts through the trees. Hawkeye sees and dips his head, then looks again...

CUT TO

138 EXT. CAMERON CABIN - WIDE - DAY 138

Burned, smoldering, falling in on itself. TRACK LEFT past what was the doorway. A dead child's hand protruding from the ruin. A fragment of a dress. Charred and smoldering wood. John Cameron's body in the wreckage. And then, through the collapsed posts and timbers, Hawkeye, Chingachgook and Uncas have advanced and are seeing what we've just seen.

139 ALICE 139

approaches and is frozen in horror. Cora shields her from the sight. Cora is affected but confronts it directly.

HEYWARD *
Anything to be done?

Uncas returns from under one part of the wreckage, ashen, * stoic, as they all are. But inside we know the degree of their * pain. *

UNCAS *
All dead...

140 HAWKEYE 140

bends over a moccasin print that Chingachgook's examining. They look at each other grimly. Heyward joins them.

HEYWARD
These people...

HAWKEYE
(re: print)
Ottawa!

HEYWARD
Excuse me...

CONTINUED

140 CONTINUED 140

CHINGACHGOOK
(to Hawkeye)
Ottawa.

141 UNCAS 141

enters from the burned wreckage, very careful where he places his feet...

UNCAS
Mirrors...tools...clothes... all inside.

HAWKEYE
(to Chingachgook)
War party. A raiding party would have stripped the cabin bare. This war party movin' fast and not able to carry much...?

Chingachgook nods confirmation. The significance is very ominous to them. We don't know why yet. Chingachgook starts away...

HEYWARD
Let us look after them...

He starts approaching the bodies. Chingachgook barks an order in Delaware. Hawkeye translates.

HAWKEYE
Leave them as they lay.

CORA
Though they're strangers, they are at least entitled to a Christian burial!

HAWKEYE
(shaking his head)
Let us go, miss.

CORA
I will not. I have seen the face of war before Mr. Poe, but not war made on women and children. And almost as cruel is your indifference.

Hawkeye moves rapidly towards her. She takes a step back, fearful.

CONTINUED

141 CONTINUED 141

HAWKEYE
(contained)
Miss Munro.
(pause)
They are not strangers.
(beat)
And they stay as they are...

142 CORA 142

realizes Hawkeye knows them and is deeply affected by what befell them. She holds his gaze a moment. She also realizes there's a lot she doesn't know about this place, these people and the condition of their lives. He turns away from her and walks on. She hesitates a moment, then starts to follow. She remembers and turns...but Heyward is already helping up Alice...

143 WIDE ON THE SMALL CLEARING IN FRONT OF THE FARMHOUSE 143

as Chingachgook and Hawkeye, extremely alert and cradling their cocked flintlocks, walk to camera, eyes sweeping the forest perimeter, followed by Cora, Heyward helping Alice and Uncas as rearguard.

The ruined cabin and the dead dream of a family smolders behind them.

CUT TO

144 EXT. GLADE - PROFILE: HAWKEYE - NIGHT 144

moves through to where the trees seem sparse and are unnaturally white birch and some thin grass grows. The land rises into a mound. Chingachgook and the others avoid stepping on the grass and cross to the other side of it.

145 CHINGACHGOOK 145

mutters something to Uncas. He nods and disappears amongst the white birch, soundlessly.

146 HAWKEYE 146

throws Heyward a blanket. Heyward spreads the blanket below the top of the mound and - maintaining silence - he gestures for Cora and Alice to rest there.

147 ALICE'S HEAD 147

hits the blanket. She curls into a fetal position and she's out. Heyward is nearby on watch. Hawkeye has taken a position two-thirds of the way around the crescent shaped mound. Cora has sought him out.

148 HAWKEYE 148

doesn't react as Cora enters. They whisper...

CORA
Why didn't you bury those people?

HAWKEYE
Anyone lookin' to pick up our trail, would see it as a sign of our passing...

CORA
You knew them?

Hawkeye looks at her and nods.

CORA
(stiffly)
You were acting for our benefit. I apologize. I misunderstood you.

HAWKEYE
Well that is to be expected. My father...

CORA
Your father?

HAWKEYE
Chingachgook. He warned me about you people. He said...
(beat)
"...do not try to make them understand you."

Beat.

CORA
What?

HAWKEYE
Yes. And "do not try to understand them. That is because they are a breed apart and they make no sense..."

Cora's indignation is cut off because...

149 UNCAS 149

moving fast. He gestures back the way he came and it means they're in jeopardy. Uncas disappears around the mound.

CUT TO

150 EXT. BIRCH FOREST - TREES - NIGHT 150

Nothing. Imperceptibly we move closer and start to see shapes blocking out part of the white birch.

151 RED-PAINTED FACE 151

white eyes. A ruff of red hair stands straight up at the back of the large man's head. Monstrously elongated earlobes are weighted with silver. He's followed by others. Wary, silently, they hunt.

152 DEEPER: MORE OTTAWA 152

Towards the rear are two French Rangers ("Coureurs des Bois") from Le Regiment de la Sarre. They're bearded, dirty, dressed Indian-style in moccasins, leggings and breechcloths with hooded hunting shirts. There's nothing clumsy about them. They're the 18th century version of Special Forces. If they and the Ottawa find our people, it's all over. *

153 ALICE 153

seeing the red-painted Ottawa approach, starts to panic. Her hyperventilating and involuntary small sounds of fear will reveal their position. A hand covers her mouth and silences her. WIDEN. It's Uncas. His other arm is around her, holding her, looking towards the advancing Ottawa. * *

154 HAWKEYE 154

on his back, his tomahawk within reach on the ground.

155 OTTAWA + FRENCH 155

are fifty yards away from the crescent mound behind which lie our people. Mist envelops them...

156 CHINGACHGOOK 156

His massive arms spread revealing his war club in his left fist; his fusil in his right hand.

157 HAWKEYE 157

waiting for the attack. Cora's eyes are anxious, but there's no terror there. Hawkeye's impressed with her cool. He hands her a pistol. She takes it. He listens for the soft drop of moccasined feet... *

158 OTTAWA 158

through the grass. Thirty feet away they stop. They're motionless. Then their leader gestures and they start backing out. The French Rangers continue towards the crescent. The Ottawa chief takes one's arm and stops him. The French Ranger whispers something inaudible. The Ottawa chief shakes his head "Non. N'est pas possible..." And means it. They retreat. *

159 SEPARATE SHOTS: HAWKEYE, UNCAS, CHINGACHGOOK, CORA 159

tensely monitor the Ottawa retreat.

160 UNCAS + ALICE 160

He slowly removes his hand from her mouth. She's a little shy, then she looks up, catches his eyes. Then she averts her face.

161 CHINGACHGOOK 161

sees all of it; doesn't like it.

162 HAWKEYE 162

The Ottawa are gone.

CORA
(quietly)
Why did they turn back?

In answer Hawkeye looks behind and above her head.

163 CORA 163

turns and makes out stilt platforms of skeletons and torn strips of buckskin silhouetted against the night sky in the distance. They have camped on sanctified ground, a burial place.

164 CORA + HAWKEYE 164

She thinks it would be a mistake to ever underestimate the skill of these men or the danger and complexity of this place. She hands the pistol back to him. Their hands almost touch:

CORA
(still pissed off)
"A breed apart and we make no sense"...?

HAWKEYE
(smiles)
In your particular case, miss, I would make some allowance...

CORA
(sarcastic)
Thank you so much.

Cora is angry. Hawkeye, staring at the trees, glances at her. She settles, looking at him. Her mood changes. Then...

CORA
You called Chingachgook your "father"? What happened to your parents? Something like this?

Hawkeye's surprised by her question.

CONTINUED

164 CONTINUED 164

HAWKEYE
They buried my ma and pa and my sisters. And Chingachgook - who found me with two French trappers - raised me up as his own.

CORA
I'm sorry.

HAWKEYE
I do not remember them. I was one or two.

CORA
Then how did you learn English?

HAWKEYE
My father sent us to Reverend Wheelock's Indian School when I was ten. So we would know both worlds...
(smiles)
We learned English and arithmetic and...we were well-warned what not to listen to so we were saved from foolish thoughts.

CORA
(wry)
What "foolish thoughts"?

HAWKEYE
The bible. King George II. Divine rights, all that...

CORA
(rises)
And what is foolish about...!

HAWKEYE
(interrupts)
Everything. Each man is his own nation. And only he can have dominion over himself; not kings.
(beat)
None are higher and none are lower than other men...

CORA
(pause)
Where I come from those radical ideas would land you in Newgate prison.
(changing subject)
Why were those people living in this danger...?

CONTINUED

164 CONTINUED (2) 164

HAWKEYE
'Cos it's near free and all they can get.
(beat)
They were seven years indentured in Virginia. After that misery they headed for the frontier where they would be beholden to none, could work their own land and not live by another's leave.

Cora sees the slate grey clouds and, in between, the fields of stars. She looks at Hawkeye; then again up at the night sky.

HAWKEYE
(continuing; looking up)
My father's people say...that at the birth of the sun and of his brother, the moon, their mother died...so the sun gave to the earth her body, from which was to spring all life. And he drew forth from her breast the stars. The stars he threw into the night sky to remind him of her soul.
(beat)
So there is the Camerons' monument...
(the sky)
...my folks', too, I guess.

165 CORA'S 165

pensive. Hawkeye's watching her. Her reaction's enigmatic. After a pause...

CORA
(low)
You are right, Mr. Poe. We do not understand what is happening here. And it is not as I imagined it would be, thinking of it in Boston and London...

HAWKEYE
Sorry it disappoints you...

CORA
(eyes downcast)
On the contrary. It is more deeply stirring...to my blood...
(then up into his eyes)
...than any imagining could possibly have been...

CONTINUED

165 CONTINUED 165

She closes her eyes, turns slightly and prepares to sleep. Hawkeye is the one left staring into the birch forest, a little surprised.

CUT TO

166 EXT. FOREST - WIDE - LATE AFTERNOON 166

Deep fog has set in. A hand entering the frame scares the hell out of us. It moves a branch aside. It's Uncas. Spread to the right is Chingachgook, far to the left is Hawkeye. They hike up a steep forested slope in the heart of the Adirondacks.

CORA
Much further?

HAWKEYE
After the top of this ridge, Miss, the fort and Lake George are downhill of it.

167 ALICE 167

Re-energized, her spirits pick up.

ALICE
Do you think we'll be able to bathe?

Before Cora can answer they hear a deep, rolling roar. Alice is alarmed.

CORA
Thunder.
(beat)
Papa will arrange something.

167A UNCAS 167A

looks over his shoulder, sees something in the far distance, gestures to Hawkeye and Chingachgook.

167B HAWKEYE'S POV: DISTANT HILLS 167B

and the band of red-painted Ottawa and Coureurs des Bois, who have now split into two groups, are still on their trail. Meanwhile, oblivious...

HEYWARD
The men of my regiment will fetch water from the lake, build fires and provide every comfort you desire, Alice...

CONTINUED

167B CONTINUED 167B

ALICE
Duncan, you are absolutely gallant. If Cora doesn't marry you, I shall.

CORA
Alice!

Heyward laughs. Hawkeye sees them. It bothers us: will these Europeans, including Cora, shed their frontier experience?

ALICE
I can't wait to see Papa...

CORA
And you, Duncan? What are you looking forward to?

HEYWARD
Posting to a different continent.

He and Alice laughs.

CORA
I don't agree. I think it's very exciting and important here.

Heyward looks at her. She's not kidding.

68 ANOTHER ANGLE: HEYWARD 168

helps Alice. As he does, he stares at Cora's separation and now her proximity to Hawkeye, who's walking on ahead, is something Heyward doesn't like. His dark thoughts are distracted by a FLASH of light and more ROLLING THUNDER.

169 OMITTED 169

170 WIDE FROM THE FRONT - HAWKEYE 170

drops and pulls Cora to the ground.

CORA
Lightning?

Hawkeye doesn't answer as he, Chingachgook, Uncas and Heyward make their way to the top of the ridge.

171 CLOSER ANGLES: CORA + ALICE 171

join them and look down upon their expectation of a secure piece of England in the wilderness, a safe harbor, a father's warm welcome.

172 THEIR POV: FORT WILLIAM HENRY 172

is none of those things. The thunder is the roar of French siege cannon clouded in dense smoke. The flashes of light are mortar bombs exploding and rockets' red glare. Fort William Henry is under a massive siege by a French and Huron army.

172A UNCAS 172A

looks over his shoulder.

172B HIS POV: OTTAWA 172B

pursuing them. There's no way back. They're propelled forward.

DISSOLVE TO

173 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - CLOSE SHOTS - DUSK 173

Cannons roar. Mortars belch black smoke and gouts of red flame. French regular regiments in grayish white with blue facing, fire a volley, driving back a British sortie. French engineers and sappeurs with pick and spade are advancing the trenches closer to the fort.

174 OMITTED 174

175 WIDE ANGLE FROM THE WATER 175

The action is happening on the west side of the fort. On the north, the fire fight is reflected on the black water in our foreground. Then a dark shape wiping to the left cuts off those reflections. We see in silhouette the outline of a birch canoe moving silently, barely rippling the mirrored surface of the lake.

176 EXT. LAKE GEORGE BEACH - FRENCH EMPLACEMENT 176

Behind earth-filled wicker, two Canadiens and a Huron alternately snipe at the ramparts.

177 LOW + WIDE: SNIPERS 177

Behind them is black water. Its surface is broken by the rising mass of Chingachgook, followed by Uncas and Hawkeye. Muzzle flashes from the cannon reveal the canoe and the forms of the girls further out. Chingachgook's war club is held low. The Huron senses and turns and Hawkeye's thrown tomahawk kills the man. Chingachgook drives the war club up, smashing a Canadien onto the wicker defenses. The second Canadien charges Uncas with his bayonet, slashing his side. Uncas folds him over and tomahawks him.

CUT TO

CONTINUED

177 CONTINUED 177

78 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY, NORTH WALL - SALLY-PORT TUNNEL - NNIGHT 178

Amidst the cannonade roar, ad-libbed shouts from Hawkeye and Heyward convince bedraggled soldiers to open the sally-port. Our people have cut their way into the fort and now rush in.

179 IN TORCH LIGHT 179

the group moves through the long, dank, tunnel. Enlisted men escorting them. Another torch from the other direction: CAPTAIN BEAMS is revealed.

HEYWARD
I'm Major Duncan Heyward!

BEAMS
Captain Jeffery Beams. We didn't expect you'd make it through!

HEYWARD
Where's Colonel Munro? His daughters are here too.

Beams raises his torch, sees the ravaged women. He is shocked that they traveled with Heyward.

CUT TO

80 INT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY, PARADE GROUND - GROUP - NIGHT 180

emerges from a sally-port tunnel during a lull in the bombardment. It's smokey. NOISE is deafening. The group has traveled through a nightmare, only to arrive in hell.

181 HEYWARD WITH BEAMS, CORA + HAWKEYE, ALICE, UNCAS + CHINGACHGOOK 181

run diagonally past pyramidal stacks of cannon ball, shell-holes and shrapnel, fatigued and wounded 33rd Regiment of Foot crowd into bunkers. Rangers, a couple of hundred Mohawks and Colonial Militia, as well as some women huddle in corners next to the sick and dying, or are on guard duty ready to repel an infantry assault.

182 UNDER PALISADE: MILITIA 182

AD-LIBS
(shouts over roar)
Uncas! Nathaniel...

183 HAWKEYE 183

waves. One wounded man, IAN, catches up to Uncas.

CONTINUED

183 CONTINUED 183

IAN
Jack say y'all weren't joinin'-up.

UNCAS
(on the run)
We didn't!

HAWKEYE
Dropped by to see how you boys were doin', is all.

184 COLONEL MUNRO 184

running from his quarters is shocked to see them.

ALICE
(hysterical)
Papa, Papa!!

MUNRO
(enraged)
Why are you here?!

If Cora is stunned, Alice is decimated by colliding with the wall of her father's anger. Munro sees and whips off his coat to cover them and takes Alice roughly under his arm. Bombardment resumes. Alice clings while they race for his quarters:

MUNRO
(to Heyward; re: Alice + Cora)
Why did you allow them to come?
(beat)
And where the bloody hell are my reinforcements!!

They race into the open door and yellow lantern light of Munro's quarters. Heyward's confused...

CUT TO

185 INT. MUNRO'S QUARTERS - NIGHT 185

MUNRO
(embracing his daughters; softer)
I specifically told you to stay away from this hell hole! Why did you disobey?

CORA
When? How?

CONTINUED

185 CONTINUED 185

MUNRO
In my letter...

CORA
There was none!

MUNRO
What?

CORA
There was no letter.

MUNRO
I sent three men to Webb!

HEYWARD
Only one called Magua arrived.

CORA
And he delivered no such message.

Munro's stunned.

MUNRO
Does Webb not even know we are besieged?

HEYWARD
No, sir. Webb has no idea. And he certainly does not know to send reinforcements!

Munro has nothing upon which to vent his fury. Meanwhile, Alice clings to her father. At fifty-five the British Army has been his life. He blindly believes in its institutions, though officers like Webb would disdain his Scots origins.

MUNRO
What happened to you?

HEYWARD
(suddenly tired)
Ambush...on the road. This Magua led us into it.
(pause; re: Heyward)
...eighteen killed. It's these men who saved us. They guided us here...

MUNRO
Can I reward you? How can I thank you?

No answer. Then...

CONTINUED

185 CONTINUED (2) 185

HAWKEYE
We would help ourselves to a few horns from your powder stores.

MUNRO
What else?

UNCAS
Some food.

MUNRO
(to Uncas)
I'm in your debt. Get your side sewn up, young man.

186 MUNRO 186

sees his exhausted and bloodstained surgeon in the doorway that leads to the next rooms.

MUNRO
Mr. Phelps!

PHELPS' face lights up when he sees Cora Munro.

PHELPS
Miss Cora! How are you?

CORA
(smiles)
Fine, Mr. Phelps. Have you cat gut and a suturing needle?
(for Uncas)
And we could use some rum, clothes, and a place to wash...

Cora tries to remove Alice from her father, but she clings to him. Munro holds her tighter. Then he whispers something to her. She nods her head. And Cora takes her. They exit.

187 MUNRO 187

is moved beyond words by his daughters' presence. At the same time...

MUNRO
What a place for them...
(to Heyward over table map)

HEYWARD
Can I enquire after your situation, sir, given what I've seen of the French dispositions from the ridge above?

CONTINUED

187 CONTINUED 187

MUNRO
The logistics are his guns are bigger than mine and he has more of them. His sappers make thirty yards of trench a day. In two days they'll be two hundred yards from the southwest battery, which will put their thirteen inch mortars in range. Once they're in, we will be pounded to dust.

188 HAWKEYE 188

remains...he has something else to say.

HAWKEYE
A man, here, can make a run straight through to Webb.

MUNRO
...not enough time, now, to get to Albany and back with reinforcements...

HEYWARD
Webb's not in Albany. He marched the 33rd to Fort Edward two days ago.

MUNRO
Webb is at Edward?

HEYWARD
Yes, sir.

MUNRO
That's only twelve miles away! He could be here day after tomorrow.
(to Hawkeye)
Find your man. Captain Beams will give you the message.

Beams nods. Munro's electrified. He turns back to the map.

HAWKEYE
John Cameron's cabin, we come upon it last night. Burned out. Everyone murdered. And it was Ottawa allied to the French.

Munro looks at him.

MUNRO
Yes, Mr. Poe? So?

CONTINUED

188 CONTINUED 188

HAWKEYE
A war-party. It means the Ottawa have swung around the fort to attack the settlements up and down the frontier. Many men here, their homes are in their path.

Munro looks at him for a long beat. Munro doesn't like what his response must be to this news. He turns to Heyward and the map.

MUNRO
(cold)
Thank you.

Hawkeye's dismissed, frozen out.

MUNRO
That's all, sir.

Hawkeye, furious, leaves Munro's quarters almost trampling an Adjutant.

HEYWARD
Things were done. Nobody was spared...

MUNRO
A terrible feature of war in the Americas.
(beat)
But keep your sight fixed on our duty. Our duty is to defeat France. And that hangs on a courier to Webb.

CUT TO

189 thru 189H OMITTED 189 thru 189H

190 INT. MONTCALM'S MARQUEE - CHORAL GROUP - NIGHT 190

of three Seneca women and five boys, led by a Jesuit, sing the Te Deum in the Iroquois language. This is a large tent that could sleep twenty. Montcalm's personal guards are at the entrance. Inside is simple campaign furniture and a six foot by eight foot battle standard and flag of France.

191 MONTCALM 191

stands with an elaborately tattooed and robed Seneca chief who whispers in his ear...

CONTINUED

191 CONTINUED 191

SENECA CHIEF
(low)
...and the Black Robes of Michilimackinac left us no time to put our cabins in order before telling us our French father had need of our aid. We rolled our blankets and were the first to be here...

The Marquis de Montcalm is forty-five, wears a large wampum belt as a sash over his waistcoat. He has an acute intellect, an elegant manner and is a consummate professional soldier. Over the Seneca's shoulder, Montcalm sees and nods to...

192 MAGUA 192

entering with four Huron braves. This is not the Magua we saw on the trail. In his scalp lock are three white plumes. A robe drapes his left shoulder.

MONTCALM
(to Seneca Chief)
For my children and the children of the true faith, my friendship and esteem is boundless...
(beat)
I will give you three oxen for a feast and tomorrow I will sing the war song with you in the great council house myself.

The Seneca Chief is satisfied and his people, plus the Jesuit, exit. The look on Magua's face and the wry expression on Montcalm's allows us to understand their relationship is based on realpolitik.

MONTCALM
Le Renard Subtil, how are things with your English friends?

Magua exhales in derision as he brings a chair to face Montcalm and sits, European style...

MONTCALM
(over his shoulder)
Louis Antoine, join us.

LOUIS ANTOINE DE BOUGAINVILLE enters. He wears a functional melange of Indian moccasins and leggings over white linen breeches and a blue officer's waistcoat.

MONTCALM
Hear what le Subtil has to tell us...

CONTINUED

192 CONTINUED 192

Bougainville published a book on integral calculus at twenty-five, at twenty-six was a secretary to the French Ambassador in London, in January 1756 at age twenty-seven he was elected a member of the British Royal Academy of Science and at age twenty-eight he's aide de camp to the Marquis de Montcalm with the rank of captain. Later in life, he brought "bougainvillea" from Tahiti to Europe and America.

BOUGAINVILLE
What sort of man is Webb?

MAGUA
English war chief is fearful. He goes to Fort Edward with 42nd Regiment because you will attack there. That lie. He know Fort Edward more safe. He does not know my father's army attacks Fort William Henry.

BOUGAINVILLE
But by now Munro knows his couriers didn't get through. He'll send another.

MAGUA
The Grey Hair will try.

MONTCALM
Four or five, including two women entered the fort...

MAGUA
The Grey Hair's children were under Magua's knife but escaped. They'll be under it again.

MONTCALM
Why do you hate the Grey Hair, Magua?

MAGUA
When the Grey Hair is dead, Magua will eat his heart. Before he dies Magua will put his children under the knife so the Grey Hair will see his seed is wiped out forever.

Montcalm won't get a direct answer.

MONTCALM
My sappeurs are advancing the trenches through the night, now. You may soon have your opportunity.

CUT TO

193 INT. SURGERY, ENTRANCE - PHELPS - NIGHT 193

exhausted, sitting on a low stool, taking a breath.

HAWKEYE (O.S.)
She know what she's doin'?

Phelps looks up, then he looks over his shoulder at Cora. He's a little indignant.

PHELPS
Assisted me in the War of the Austrian Succesion when she was fourteen. I would say she does...

Her apron is stained. Hawkeye sees this may be her first time in the New World, but it's not her first military campaign. Still angered at Munro's dismissive response, he's nevertheless falling for Cora.

HAWKEYE
She does not shy away from much...

PHELPS
(elsewhere)
What's that?

HAWKEYE
Nothin'.

Alice Munro has caught Hawkeye's attention. Outside the surgery where a casement meets a wall, she sits, withdrawn. A catatonic older woman in a fine dress sits next to her.

PHELPS (O.S.)
Miss Cora? Gentleman looking for you.

194 HAWKEYE 194

enters. Cora's sewing up Uncas.

CORA
(looks up)
Mr. Poe?

HAWKEYE
Miss.
(re: cotton)
May I?

Cora, curious, nods. Hawkeye cuts some pieces from her ruined and discarded blouse that she now uses to bandage Uncas. We don't know why; neither does Cora.

CONTINUED

194 CONTINUED 194

HAWKEYE
(to Uncas)
As soon as you are done holdin' hands with Miss Munro, we have work to do...

Uncas laughs. Hurts. Uncas is up. Cora tends another wounded man. As they start out, Hawkeye hesitates. Sensing it, Cora turns.

CORA
What are you looking at, Mr. Poe?

HAWKEYE
I am looking at you, Miss.

Cora measures the directness of Hawkeye's manner. It's not insolent, only unsettling. He smiles. So does she, feeling foolish, then she turns. He leaves.

CUT TO

190 EXT. FRENCH TRENCHES - SAPPERS + ENGINEERS - NIGHT 190

having worked through the night, are still digging the diagonally-advancing trench. We note it's closer than it was.

196 EXT. FRENCH TRENCHES - FRENCH PICKETS 196

at their posts guard the sappeurs. Meanwhile...

CUT TO

197 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY, WEST SIDE - SALLY-PORT - NIGHT 197

opens. Ten Mohawks and Rangers crawl towards the French lines. Meanwhile...

CUT TO

198 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY, PARAPET - HAWKEYE + UNCAS - NIGHTT 198

are low and out of French sight in the northeast battery. Four others are with them. Stacked rifles are against the casement. We don't know why. Each rifle is within reach of Hawkeye's hand. Hawkeye is taking extra care unloading Killdeer. He charges it once, then overloads the powder and the quarter charge.

UNCAS
You told about the Ottawa?

CONTINUED

198 CONTINUED 198

HAWKEYE
(nods)
He does not want to hear it.
(pause)
But he is gonna have to. From John, Ian, Sharitarish, all of us...

Hawkeye uses the fine cotton he took from Cora, wets it to make a tighter gas seal and rams it home. The tighter fit requires more effort.

199 HAWKEYE 199

looks below to ground level...

200 A FRONTIERSMAN - COURIER 200

Two pistols are holstered in a sash around his chest. He wears no hat and carries no pack. He waits by the sally-port door.

CUT TO

201 EXT. FRENCH TRENCH - THREE PICKETS - NIGHT 201 *

are suddenly tomahawked and knifed by Rangers and Mohawks. Alarm is raised. Shots are fired. French and some Huron run to advance. The Rangers and Mohawks fall back. *

02 FRENCH 202

emboldened, pursue...

203 TRENCH IN FRONT OF WEST WALL 203

suddenly Heyward and three companies of the 33rd Regiment of Foot (60 men) are over the top in perfect formation...

HEYWARD
Sergeant! Form three ranks! *

SERGEANT MAJOR
Sir!!
(bellows to troops)
Upon the center, wheel to the left-about! March!
(three motions; drums)
Rear ranks, proper distance!
(the rear ranks back up six paces)
Front ranks, take your distance!
March!
(everybody moves)
Halt!
(MORE)

CONTINUED

203 CONTINUED 203

SERGEANT MAJOR (Cont'd)
(in unison they slam to a stop)
Make ready!
(muskets snap to port arms)

204 RANGERS 204

dodge right and left of the 33rd Foot's line of fire.

205 FRENCH 205

are coming forward. Their sergeants trying to stop and form their men in ad-libbed French. *

206 33RD REGIMENT OF FOOT 206

SERGEANT MAJOR
(dead cool)
First rank! Second rank!
Pre-sent arms!!
(muskets shouldered)

HEYWARD
Fire!!!

Like ONE SHOT, LIGHTNING, SMOKE and .65 caliber death screams from the first two ranks like a scythe, cutting down...

207 REVERSE: FRENCH 207

Fourteen wounded or killed...

208 33RD REGIMENT OF FOOT - HEYWARD 208

exposed. Man next to him goes down. He's oblivious to incoming rounds. * *

HEYWARD
Advance, Sergeant Major!

SERGEANT MAJOR
Sir!!!
(to soldiers)
Third rank! Twelve paces!
Forward march!
(drums)

The rear rank walks through the first two ranks, who are priming and loading in perfect order to their Sergeant Major's commands. As the third rank becomes the first rank...

CONTINUED

208 CONTINUED 208

SERGEANT MAJOR
Shoulder arms!
(slam)
Present!
(slam)

HEYWARD
Fire!!!

CUT TO

209 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - COURIER - NIGHT 209 *

sprints for the trees during the diversion of Heyward's sally.

210 TWO HURONS 210

materialize from nowhere and charge at him... Both are BLOWN off their feet by...

211 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY, CASEMENT - UNCAS + HAWKEYE 211

now handed already-loaded, primed and cocked rifles while the four men behind them reload the two just fired. Hawkeye gestures...

212 EXT. HILLSIDE - THREE HALF-SAVAGE CANADIENS 212

are running down the hill to intercept the courier. One fires...

213 COURIER 213

a near miss.

214 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - HAWKEYE 214

FIRES. A half second later, Uncas FIRES.

215 EXT. HILLSIDE 215

One Canadien's falling through trees as the second one's hit by Uncas' shot.

216 HAWKEYE 216

reaches out his hand. Killdeer with the heavier load is slapped into it. Hawkeye aims. Looks away a second and comes back to the sight in deep concentration. The world goes silent... *

217 HAWKEYE'S POV: COURIER + CANADIEN 217 *

pursuer are barely visible. Only patches appear momentarily between the trees. They're three hundred yards away: an impossible shot in 1757. * *

218 EXT. FOREST - THE CANADIEN 218

will intersect the courier. His arm is back with his tomahawk to throw...

219 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - HAWKEYE 219

judges wind, elevates the long rifle...and FIRES at us.

220 JUMP CUT BACK: TREES 220

Hawkeye's heavy round rips through. We HEAR the ball cut air. A few leaves flutter...

221 EXT. FOREST - CANADIEN 221

whacked head over heels by the impact.

222 COURIER 222

looks over his shoulder. He didn't know the Canadian was there. He stumbles in the half light. Then he runs on...

CUT TO

223 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - WEST SALLY-PORT 223

The three companies of the 33rd Regiment of Foot file back into the fort in perfect order. The sally-port is closed. Three men are wounded. The diversion worked perfectly.

HEYWARD
Sergeant Major!

SERGEANT MAJOR
Sir!

HEYWARD
Thank you, Sergeant Major. Thank the men.

SERGEANT MAJOR
Atten-hut!

224 TROOPERS + MILITIA 224

have seen no action for three days and nights. Heyward got their blood running and won their respect. They step aside and nod to him. Heyward keeps walking. He is home.

CUT TO

225 EXT. FOREST - THE COURIER 225

...disappears into the dark trees.

226 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - HAWKEYE 226

HAWKEYE
(to one of the frontiersmen)
Thomas, round up Ian and Captain Jack. Ask them to meet me outside the Colonel's quarters.

Then he's pensive and looks into the deep gloom of the forest. Will the courier make it?

CUT TO

227 OMITTED 227

228 INT. MUNRO'S BEDCHAMBER - DOOR - DAY 228

a knock and Heyward enters.

229 CORA + ALICE 229

Alice is in her father's bed. Cora is collecting and tearing linen into strips for bandages.

HEYWARD
Cora... I wanted to talk to you, but I'll come back another time...

Alice looks at the two of them and rises out of the bed.

CORA
Alice...

ALICE
Talk to Duncan, Cora.
(smiles)
I must manage... I cannot be an invalid schoolgirl.
(starts for door)
I'll see if Mr. Phelps needs anything...

She leaves.

HEYWARD
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

CORA
Her nerves are shattered. She's trying to be brave.

There's a lot going on under Cora's surface. We don't know what it is, but it's disconcerting.

CONTINUED

229 CONTINUED 229

HEYWARD
Cora, I adore you and, when we come together, we will be the happiest couple in England.
(beat)
I am certain of that. More than ever before.
(softens)
And I am certain of the rightness that you trust the judgment of those for whom your welfare is closest to their hearts to...

CORA
Duncan...
(pause)
Duncan, I promised you an answer. You have complimented me with your persistence and patience but...
(beat)
But the decision I've come to is I'd rather make the gravest of mistakes than surrender my own judgment.

Heyward is stunned.

CORA
And it's been unfair to you while I search myself for feelings, which, if they were there and as strong as they ought to be, would've made themselves known long ago...
(pause)
Take my admiration and friendship. And please take this as my final answer. It must be no.

Heyward's shattered inside.

HEYWARD
I see.

CORA
I am sorry, Duncan...

Heyward nods. He's speechless. He's very erect as he leaves the room.

230 CLOSE: CORA 230

The tension rushes out of her and she shudders and leans against the quarter-timbered walls for support. Then she collects the linen and starts out.

CUT TO

231 thru 233 OMITTED 231 thru 233

234 INT. FORT, INNER CORRIDOR - CORA 234

moving through the corridor past wounded. Two French mortar bombs explode above one of the casements. We hear shrill screams in the distance and...

HAWKEYE (O.S.)
The cabin was attacked by an Ottawa war party, not a raidin' party out for pillage. They are sweeping south down the frontier and waging war against the settlements and Mohawk villages.

IAN (O.S.)
And my cabin's not thirteen miles south of Cameron's.

Cora, passing the open door to Munro's crowded office, now hesitates.

235 CORA'S POV: THE ROOM 235

Hawkeye, Captain Jack Winthrop, Ian, seven or eight other militia spokesmen, Munro, Heyward, two adjutants, one lieutenant of Rangers.

MUNRO
I must receive proof more conclusive than Mr. Poe's opinion before I weaken our defenses by allowing militia to withdraw.

JACK
Chingachgook's of the same opinion, taken together, that's gospel. And your fort will stand or fall depending on Webb and reinforcements, not these colonials' presence.

MUNRO
I judge military matters, Captain Winthrop, not you.

HAWKEYE
But your judgment is not more important than their right under agreement with Webb to defend their farms and families.
(beat)
Major Heyward was at John Cameron's. He saw what it was.

CONTINUED

235 CONTINUED 235

MUNRO
(looking to Heyward for confirmation of his point of view)
What did you see, Major?

Heyward looks around the room. And he catches in the doorway...

236 CORA 236

beyond the periphery of men, staring at him. *

237 HEYWARD 237

Munro is expecting him to be the good soldier in defense of British military interests. At the same time...

238 CORA 238

examines him with a cool, level stare. *

239 HEYWARD 239

looks at Munro. More French mortar rounds detonate O.S. What if Webb gets here and they need to launch a counter-attack? They need every man they have. It's his moment of decision... *

HEYWARD
(to Munro)
I saw nothing that would lead me to the conclusion it was other than a raid by savages bent on thievery.

Jack Winthrop grabs Nathaniel. *

HAWKEYE *
You are a liar! *

240 CORA'S 240

saddened. Heyward's stature has fallen irrevocably in her eyes.

241 HEYWARD 241

can't help it. He turns to look at Cora...

242 HEYWARD'S POV: DOORWAY 242

She's gone.

243 HEYWARD 243

suffused with an inner sadness, turns to Hawkeye. *

CONTINUED

243 CONTINUED 243

HAWKEYE
And the blood will be on your hands!

Heyward reaches for his sword.

MUNRO
(to Heyward)
I'll have none of that!
(to colonials)
Montcalm is a soldier and a gentleman. Not a butcher.

HAWKEYE
But it is their women and children alone in wilderness cabins, not your kin!

MUNRO
(exploding)
You forget yourself!

JACK
I am not forgettin' the word Webb gave: these men would be released!

MUNRO
British promises are honored. The militia will NOT be released. Because I need more definite proof than his word!

JACK
Nathaniel's word has been good on the frontier a long time before you got here.

MUNRO
This interview's over. You've had my decision. The militia stays!

JACK
(to Munro)
Does the rule of English law no longer govern? Has it been replaced by absolutism?

This is very dangerous talk.

HAWKEYE
And if there is no trust to be placed in English law, these people would do better makin' a peace with the French!

CONTINUED

243 CONTINUED (2) 243

HEYWARD
That is sedition!

HAWKEYE
That is the truth!

HEYWARD
(restraining himself)
I ought to have you whipped from this fort!

HAWKEYE
Major!
(changes down)
I think some day you and I are gonna have a serious disagreement.

MUNRO
(steel)
Anyone fomenting or advocating leaving Fort William Henry will be hung for sedition. Anyone leaving will be shot for desertion.
(pause)
My decision is final. Get out.

Hawkeye are the others are not intimidated. Their rage smolders. The look on Hawkeye's face says this is not over.

CUT TO

244 EXT. FORT, PARADE GROUND - BONFIRE - NIGHT 244

Sparks shower skyward. Impromptu music. Some Celtic proto-blue grass played on fiddle and drums. It's stirring.

245 ANOTHER ANGLE: SOME WOMEN 245

laundresses, dance from soldier to soldier - English foot and American Rangers. A few people lit by the firelight are solemn. Most are stirred to lift their morale for a while.

246 THEIR FACES 246

underlit by the red firelight. They are a disposable people, a diverse plurality stuck in a postage stamp-size fort in an ocean of forest, locked into mortal deadly conflict because of the policies of cold and distant European monarchs.

247 A PLACE A LITTLE DISTANT FROM THE FIRE 247

We can barely make out the eyes and faces of a number of men behind logs, crates and new wreckage from the day's bombardment.

CONTINUED

247 CONTINUED 247

HAWKEYE
By my light, if they set aside their law as and when they wish, they no longer have rightful authority over you. To not fight that is to aid them takin' away our natural rights as men and imposing their tyranny upon us.

JACK
That is also what I am believin'. And no force on earth will keep me here any longer.
(beat)
Anyone caught leavin' the fort could be shot. Each man make your own decision.
(beat)
Those who are goin', be back here in an hour.

HAWKEYE
Out the northern sally-port. Strike for the east side of the swamp until you clear the French picket line. Head north over the ridge, then come about southeast and fork left in Little Meadow and you're free of the outpost and skirmishers...

A COLONIAL
(grumbles)
Should've skinned outta this long ago.

COLONIAL #2
We got no families, Captain. Figured we'd stay and give 'em a hand even though...

HAWKEYE
(points up)
We will cover you from the top of the casement.

JACK
(in amazement)
You're not coming with us?

Hawkeye shakes his head.

HAWKEYE
I got reason to stay.

CONTINUED

247 CONTINUED (2) 247

JACK
Does that reason wear a blue dress and work in the surgery?

Low laughter.

HAWKEYE
(dry)
It does and no offense, but it is a better lookin' reason than you, Jack Winthrop.
(more laughs)
Push hard, 'cos you got to clear the French outpost by dawn.
(sticks out his hand and grasps Winthrop's)
Good luck, Captain.

The men split up...

CUT TO

248 FIRE - HAWKEYE 248

wanders among the dancers and musicians clustered in groups, lit by the firelight. Someone catches his eye and he moves in that direction...

249 HAWKEYE'S POV: CORA 249

in the shadows, leaning against the wall, searching... We sense she's been looking for him. He comes up to her. She turns in surprise. *

250 CLOSER 250

Somehow she breathes easier because he's there. She's in a white shirt with sleeves rolled up. Hawkeye leads her away from some of the people.

251 CORA + HAWKEYE 251

Hawkeye takes Cora's hand. Cora is awakening to a new spirit, * a new wind blowing through a new land, a new self-determination... And she's drawn to this rough yet * graceful man with his direct manner. Hawkeye settles against * a wall. She leans next to him. Their shoulders touch. *

252 CORA 252 *

To her everything about him seems to be somehow right. She's * discovered that the passions and outrage that move him, move * her... And her readiness to give herself to what stirs the * deepest resonances of her soul is the same as his. *

253 HAWKEYE 253

looks at her. She's beautiful in the firelight. Cora's eyes find his and she folds into his arms. His lips find hers and tears stream down her face. She's suffused with an elation she can't explain. In the night before doomsday a romance is born in rebellion amid the huddled people in this small stockade ripped from the black earth of the forests of a wild continent.

CUT TO

254 INT. BARRACKS - LOW + WIDE - NIGHT 254

door CRASHES inwards. Twelve British sentries storm in. Four bear torches.

255 REVERSE: HAWKEYE, UNCAS, CHINGACHGOOK, TWO COLONIALS + SOME MOHAWKS 255

are out of the bunks and moving at them with tomahawks, knives, a flintlock...

SERGEANT (O.S.)
You! Halt!

256 BRITISH SENTRIES 256

their muskets aimed mostly at Hawkeye.

SERGEANT
As you were!!

Hawkeye freezes. The others slow down, indecisive... Hawkeye drops his tomahawk and says something in Delaware to restrain Chingachgook and Uncas. The British in the torchlight with the long muskets and bayonets are an image out of Goya.

SERGEANT
Take him!

Hawkeye's spun around and while his hands are bound:

CHINGACHGOOK
(Delaware; subtitled)
Why do they make my son prisoner?

HAWKEYE
(Delaware; subtitled)
I helped Winthrop and the others leave...

CHINGACHGOOK
(Delaware; subtitled)
Why didn't you tell us?

CONTINUED

256 CONTINUED 256

HAWKEYE
(Delaware; subtitled)
Because this fight is not yours, father. I love you and my brother. And you should leave this place now...

CHINGACHGOOK
(Mohican; subtitled)
What will they do to my white son?

One of the guards - scared to death by Chingachgook - nervously fingers his musket.

GUARD
Get back from him!

257 HEYWARD 257

enters.

258 HAWKEYE 258

shrugs in answer to Chingachgook's question.

259 HAWKEYE'S 259

moved out. As he passes Heyward, their eyes lock.

CUT TO

260 INT. MUNRO'S QUARTERS - CORA - NIGHT 260

CORA
He saved us! We're alive only because of him...

WIDEN: Heyward, Munro, Cora. We've entered mid-argument. An adjutant comes and goes. Heyward and Munro are sensitive to appearances in front of the adjutant. Cora couldn't give a damn.

MUNRO
The man encouraged the colonials to desert in this very room, in my presence. He is guilty of sedition and must be tried and hanged like any other criminal, regardless of what he did for my children.

CORA
He knew the consequences. And he stayed. Are those the actions of a criminal?
(MORE)

CONTINUED

260 CONTINUED 260

CORA (Cont'd)
(beat)
Duncan, do something.

HEYWARD
He knew the penalty. He ought to pay without sending you to beg.

CORA
You know he wouldn't send me...! You misrepresented what you saw and caused this.
(frustrated)
I, too, was at that farm. It was as Nathaniel said...

MUNRO
Not with enough certainty to outweigh the fate of this fort.

HEYWARD
And who are these colonials to pass judgment on England's policies in her possessions? And come and go without so much as a "by your leave?"

CORA
They do not live their lives "by your leave."
(beat)
They hack it out of the wilderness with their own two hands, burying their dead along the way.

HEYWARD
(distant)
You are defending him because you've become infatuated with him.

Cora is having her intelligence written off as a hormone attack. She contains her fury.

CORA
Duncan, you are a man with a few admirable qualities. But taken as a whole, I was wrong to have thought so highly of you.

Heyward's shot through the heart.

MUNRO
Cora! I would anything I could to keep you from being hurt.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

260 CONTINUED (2) 260

MUNRO (Cont'd)
But the man is guilty of sedition and subject to military justice and beyond pardon.

CORA
"Justice"? If that's "justice"..., then the sooner French guns blow the English army out of America, the better it will be for these people.

MUNRO
You do not know what you are saying!

CORA
(explodes)
Yes I do! I know exactly what I am saying. And if it is sedition, then I am guilty of sedition too!

She exits, leaving them there.

CUT TO

261 INT. FORT, STOCKADE - NIGHT 261

Heavy timbered door. A sentry. They stand at attention when Cora passes as opposed to barring her entry.

262 INT. CELL - HAWKEYE 262

comes to the door, grips the bars with his hands and looks at Cora.

263 THROUGH THE BARS ON TO CORA 263

They are silent for a moment, then:

HAWKEYE
Sorry...can't ask you in.

Cora's pale smile.

CORA
They're going to hang you.
(pause; soft)
Why didn't you leave when you had the chance?

HAWKEYE
Because what I am interested in is right here...

CONTINUED

263 CONTINUED 263

CORA
What do you want me to do?

He touches her hand.

HAWKEYE
Webb's reinforcements will arrive or not. If they do not, the fort will fall. Stay close to your father. The French will protect the officers among the English.

CORA
No. I will find you.

HAWKEYE
Do not. Ordinary people will be in danger. The officers and theirs will be safe.
(pause)
Promise me.

Cora drops her forehead to Hawkeye's hands wrapped around the bars. She acquiesces, nods. Then HEAVY SHELLING commences.

Cora and Hawkeye look up. Mortar bombs begin striking the fortress. Still dark. The French salvo started early today.

CORA
The whole world's on fire, isn't it?

A pause.

HAWKEYE
This part of it sure is...

Reaching through the bars set in the thick door, their hands clasp each others. On that image...

CUT TO

264 EXT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - VARIOUS CUTS - DAWN 264

French cannoneers fire again and again. They work like precision drill teams from the new makeshift earthwork casements.

265 FRENCH TRENCH 265

is now only two hundred yards from William Henry's walls. French and Canadien lay down musket fire in support of artillery crews who reload the squat and massive newly arrived thirteen inch mortars.

266 MORTAR ONE 266

is loaded with powder, patch and thirteen inch diameter bomb. The flash-hole is primed. The burning fuse is jammed into the bomb. The primer charge is lit off and the crew ducks as the crude iron belches red flame and black smoke into the lightening sky. The other mortar ROARS. *

CUT TO

267 INT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY - ENGLISH CANNON CREW - DAWN 267

tries to return fire under the heavy French bombardment. The French mortar bomb arcs in and EXPLODES smoke, flame and shrapnel, wiping out most of the crew. The fortress is under the heaviest attack we've seen. Wounded are in shock or terrorized.

CUT TO

268 EXT. BEHIND FRENCH LINES - MONTCALM - DAWN 268

surrounded by his officer staff. Though aristocrats and haute * bourgeoisie, none are dilettantes. These are tough, seasoned * soldiers. Among them are Chevalier de Fouchard and Louis Antoine de Bougainville.

269 CHEVALIER DE LEVIS 269

moves through the officers to Bougainville's side and whispers, handing him a dispatch. The Chevalier's white lace and breeches are dirty. He's wounded. He wears three pistols holstered in a brace like a sash across his chest.

BOUGAINVILLE
(indicating dispatch)
Well done, Chevalier. Thank you.

De Levis bows. Bougainville hands the dispatch to Montcalm. * Montcalm reads it.

MONTCALM
(to Bougainville)
Prepare the honor guard.

CUT TO

270 INT. FORT WILLIAM HENRY, MUNRO'S QUARTERS - MUNRO - MORNING 270

dusty, dirty, up all night argues with engineers. One's bloodstained. Munro looks around suddenly because most of the * O.S. cannon ROAR has quit. The men, realizing this, looking around as...

271 HEYWARD 271

enters.

CONTINUED

271 CONTINUED 271

HEYWARD
Montcalm...asking for a parlay!

MUNRO
A parlay?
(beat)
Could it be his outposts have spotted Webb and reinforcements? *

HEYWARD
We needn't grant it, sir.

MUNRO
(he thinks)
Use the parlay to move the nine pounders across to the south casement. Fast! *
(grimly)
Turn out a guard of honor. *

BEAMS
Yes sir!

CUT TO

272 EXT. FRENCH LINES - FACES - DAY 272

They carried two hundred and forty-five bateaux across a ten mile portage, all their supplies and artillery, and then rowed down the length of Lake George to get here. To them, assaulting this fort is the easy part. The drummers of the honor guard play a tattoo behind them.

273 INDIAN FACES 273

Huron, Ottawa, Osage, Seneca, Choctaw, Fox...hear the drum of the honor guard and wait. They're in war paint of green, black and red. Many tattoos. Split ears. The Osage scalping locks are hennaed red. Canadiens among them are bearded, dirty... At their head...

274 MAGUA 274

in full war paint, with a coterie of Huron warriors, silent, menacing. Drums.

275 HONOR GUARD - FRENCH OFFICERS 275

Marquis de Montcalm, immaculate, followed by a guard of honor in white, grey and medium blue with six foot by eight foot regimental colors and the French flag (gold fleur-de-lis on a field of blue). *

276 REVERSE: MUNRO, HEYWARD, BEAMS 276

approach, followed by an honor guard of the 33rd Regiment of Foot and British drummers in scarlet, tall mitred hats, gold braid.

277 INT. FORT - ENGLISH TROOPS 277

grim, silent and watchful. Drum sounds.

278 ENGLISH ARTILLERYMEN 278

move cannon. Drum sound.

279 AMERICAN SCOUTS, COLONIAL MILITIA, MOHAWK INDIANS IN WAR PAINT 279

watching the parlay from a battery. Silent. Drum sound.

280 WIDE: FRENCH + ENGLISH 280

come together, stand to attention, salute. Drums cease. Montcalm steps forward and sweeps his plumed hat to the ground in a courtly bow. Munro bows coldly.

MONTCALM
Colonel Munro, I have known you as a gallant antagonist. I am happy to make your acquaintance as a friend.

MUNRO
And I to make yours, Monsieur le Marquis.

MONTCALM
I have long realized that even outnumbered as you are, it would be merely a waste of breath to invite your surrender.

MUNRO
You are correct.

MONTCALM
Please accept my compliments for the strong and skillful defense of your fortress. Under the command of a lesser man it would have fallen long ago given the superior numbers and material... mere chance has allowed me to array against you...

MUNRO
Monsieur le Marquis, I am a soldier, not a diplomat. You called this parlay for a better reason than the exchange of compliments?

CONTINUED

280 CONTINUED 280

MONTCALM
As a soldier you have already done everything which is necessary for the honor of your Prince. I will forever bear testimony that your resistance has been gallant and was continued as long as there was hope. But now, I beg you to listen to the admonitions of humanity. I beg you to consider my offer to you of terms of surrender.

MUNRO
However I may apprise such testimony from Monsieur Montcalm, Fort William Henry is strong and still stands.

MONTCALM
Honor that is freely accorded to courage, may be refused obstinacy.
(pause)
These hills afford us every opportunity to reconnoiter your works and I am possibly as well acquainted with their weak condition as you are yourselves.

Is Webb really en route and Montcalm hopes to take the fort by duplicity before reinforcements arrive?

MUNRO
Perhaps the General's glasses can reach to the Hudson and he knows the size and imminence of the army of Webb...?

Montcalm takes a moment to reply and appears genuinely sympathetic to Munro.

MONTCALM
(quietly)
My scouts intercepted this dispatch intended for you.

Munro is puzzled, suspicious.

MONTCALM
(to Bougainville)
Read the dispatch.

281 HEYWARD + MUNRO 281

BOUGAINVILLE (O.S.)
(reading)
"Colonel Munro - Fort William Henry. I have not a single man available to send to your rescue. It is impossible. I advise you to seek terms for surrender. Signed Webb."

Munro, Heyward and Beams are rocked, as if struck by a single blow. Bougainville hands Heyward the letter.

HEYWARD
(confirming)
This is the signature of Webb.
(to Munro)
And I know the temper of our men. Rather than spend the rest of the war in a French prison hulk in Hudson Bay, they'll fight to the end.

MUNRO
(to Montcalm)
You have heard your answer, Monsieur le Marquis.
(salutes)

Munro starts off. Montcalm stops him.

MONTCALM
Sir.
(challengingly)
I am incapable of mistreating brave men. So I beg you not to sign the death warrant of so many until you've listened to my terms.

Munro turns.

MUNRO
Such as...?

MONTCALM
My master requires the fort be destroyed. But, for you and your comrades, there is no privilege that will be denied. None of your men will see the inside of a prison barge. They're free to go so long as they return to England and fight no more on this continent, and the civilian militia return to their farms.

CONTINUED

281 CONTINUED 281 *

MUNRO *
Their arms? *

MONTCALM *
They may leave the fortress fully armed, but with no ammunition. *
(beat)
Other than that, ask what you wish.

Munro's impressed with Montcalm's generosity.

MUNRO
The honors of war?

MONTCALM
Granted.

MUNRO
My colors? *

MONTCALM
Carry them to England with pride and show them to your King. *

MUNRO
Allow me to consult with my officers.

Something's gone out of Munro forever. As the men move away from the French... *

MUNRO
I have lived to see two things in my old age I never expected. An Englishman afraid to support a friend. And a Frenchman too honest to profit by that advantage.

HEYWARD
General Webb can burn in hell. Our mission is to fight until the end. We'll go back and dig our graves behind the ramparts!

MUNRO
(flares)
Death and glory are sometimes thought the same. Over the years I've learned they are not.

Munro looks at the fortress behind him.

HEYWARD
Sir!

CONTINUED

281 CONTINUED (2) 281

MUNRO
(stops him with his eyes)
The decision is final.

A beat. Then Munro turns towards Montcalm. Their eyes meet across the churned, scarred earth of the battlefield.

MUNRO
I am deeply touched by such unusual and unexpected generosity.
(pause)
The fort is yours under the condition that we be given until dawn to bury our dead, prepare our men and women for their march and turn our wounded over to your surgeon.

MONTCALM
Granted, Monsieur.

And Montcalm bows deeply and as he does so...

CUT TO

282 EXT. FRENCH LINES - CLOAKED MAN - NIGHT 282

passes away from the little city of tents in the direction of the beach and towards William Henry. He seems to head towards a vantage point from which to observe the fort. As he approaches a sentry:

SENTRY
Qui vive?

MONTCALM
France.

SENTRY
Le mot d'ordre?

MONTCALM
La victoire.

SENTRY
C'est bien, vous vous promenez bien matin, monsieur!

MONTCALM
Il est necessaire d'etre vigilant, mon enfant.

The cloak parts. By the light of the moon the man's face is dimly perceived by us and the soldier as General Montcalm.

CONTINUED

282 CONTINUED 282

The soldier snaps erect as Montcalm continues walking out beyond the line to a small stand of trees.

283 ANOTHER ANGLE: MONTCALM 283

The moon is broken into pieces of light on the water and behind Montcalm, from the front of the stand of trees emerges a tall figure.

MAGUA
Is the hatchet buried between the English and my French father?

MONTCALM
Yes.

MAGUA
Not a warrior has a scalp and the white men become friends.

MONTCALM
My master owns these lands and your father has been ordered to drive off the English squatters. They have consented to go. So now he calls them enemies no longer.

MAGUA
Magua took the hatchet to color it with blood. It is still bright. When it is red, then it will be buried.

MONTCALM
But many suns have set since Le Renard struck the war post?

MAGUA
Where is that sun?! Behind the hill. It is dark and cold. When the sun comes again it will be bright and warm.
(threatening)
And Le Subtil is the son of his tribe. There have been many clouds and many mountains before he has come to lead his nation. But now he shines and it is a clear sky.

MONTCALM
That Le Renard has power with his people, I know well.

CONTINUED

283 CONTINUED 283

Magua grabs the hand of the French commander. Imperceptible surprise in Montcalm's eyes. Magua jams Montcalm's fingers to his chest.

MAGUA
Does my father know that?

284 MAGUA'S CHEST 284

A deep indentation and scar.

MONTCALM
That's where a lead bullet has torn you.

MAGUA
And this?

Magua turns his naked back to Montcalm and puts Montcalm's hand on his back...deep ridges of scar a half inch wide.

MONTCALM
My son has been sadly injured. Who did this?

MAGUA
(laughs; sardonic)
Magua slept hard in the English wigwams. And the sticks left their mark...
(pause; for real)
Magua's village and lodges were burnt. Magua's children were killed by the English. Magua was taken as a slave by the Mohawks who fought for the English. Magua's wife believed he was dead and became the wife of another. The Grey Hair was the Mohawks' father. He told them to do all this.
(pause)
Magua became blood-brother to Mohawk to become free. In his heart he always was Huron. And his heart will be whole again on the day when the Grey Hair and all his seed are dead!

MONTCALM
My son Magua's pain is my pain.

MAGUA
Does the chief of the Canadas believe the English will keep the terms?

CONTINUED

284 CONTINUED 284

MONTCALM
Munro would. But General Webb will not send their soldiers across the salt lake. We, few that we are, will have to fight the same men again when we move south.
(pause; shrugs)
And yet, I cannot break the terms of the capitulation and sully the lilies of France. I cannot...

Long pause, wheels turn. Then:

MAGUA
But many things my French father cannot do, Magua can.

Montcalm reacts as if he hadn't thought of that.

MONTCALM
As the English march away, our soldiers and the Canadiens will be drawn to the looting of the fort...except a small guard...

Magua abruptly leaves Montcalm.

CUT TO

285 EXT. WOODS - MAGUA - NIGHT 285

walking back to the Huron camp. Reveal a Huron sub-chief has been in the woods, waiting for Magua. Now he joins him. They walk in silence. Then...

MAGUA
(in Iroquois; re: Montcalm)
I wonder at the blindness and pride of the white man. He believes only he knows how to speak falsely to make other men do his bidding.

Magua exhales in derision.

CUT TO

286 EXT. FORT, MAIN GATE - MUNRO - DAY 286

at the end of the column, rides out on his horse. Both sides of the gate are jammed with armed French troops standing at attention. It looks like there are thousands. The French colors and an honor guard are just outside the gate along with Bougainville, Chevalier de Levis, both on horseback as is - at the head - Montcalm.

287 CLOSER: MUNRO 287

trots past his walking column out the gate. He does not look at the French.

288 MONTCALM 288

salutes Munro and bows gravely from the saddle.

289 CLOSER: MUNRO 289

salutes Montcalm.

MUNRO
(eyes forward)
Monsieur, the fort is yours.

290 MID-COLUMN - ON HEYWARD 290

marching with his 33rd Regiment of Foot well beyond the fort. The French troops have thinned out. Repressing shame, his backbone is rigid, his face is straight ahead. The 33rd marches in perfect cadence to the drum. In the B.G. Munro on his horse passes Heyward as he rides towards the front of the column. Heyward does not look at him.

291 FRONT OF COLUMN - CORA WITH ALICE 291

on the back of a mare. Alice, living through a wide-awake nightmare, is huddled under the arm of her sister. They ride behind the standard bearers. In the B.G. her father is seen approaching and takes his position at their side. Cora looks down the column, shielding her eyes against the sun. We know who she's looking for...Hawkeye.

292 CORA'S POV: THE COLUMN 292

Sullen Rangers, the 62nd and 33rd Regiment of Foot including * Heyward...thirty to forty women and a number of children - for safety - in the middle, some frontiersmen, Sharitarish and many * Mohawk, walking wounded. The column is still snaking its way out of the fort. No Hawkeye.

293 CORA 293

straining to see...

294 EXT. FORT - PRISONERS 294

being assembled, their hands shackled. Hawkeye is among twelve or thirteen. He stands erect, walking out of the gate. The French are starting to pour in to loot the interior. Hawkeye looks to his left about twenty paces in front of him and sees...

295 UNCAS + CHINGACHGOOK 295

on the other side of the column.. Chingachgook cradles Killdeer as well as his own musket. They fall back to walk beside the prisoners on the other side of Hawkeye. Their eyes connect... We don't expect Hawkeye to stay shackled for the duration.

296 RANK AND FILE FRENCH 296

A few insults. The British soldiers answer. Nobody breaks rank. It's just talk.

297 EXT. ROAD - HAWKEYE 297 *

His eyes sweep the column snaking its way into the v-shaped valley. The path cuts through the forested hills ahead. He sees...

298 HAWKEYE'S DISTANT POV: CORA 298

riding near the front where there are no more French soldiers. Only a few scattered and curious Huron and Ottawa. She does not see him. *

299 PROFILE OF COLUMN - HIGH + WIDE 299

as it passes left to right below like a long snake through the narrow valley. We're shooting from inside the dark woods. Lower, in the light, we see a scattering on both slopes of a couple of hundred Ottawa and Huron. They are in no order, are spread out and don't constitute a threat. They watch the column. SLOWLY THE CAMERA...slides across the shoulders and back of a large man wearing black plumes in his scalp-lock and other than a breechcloth is almost naked. He is heavily war-painted...

300 FRONTAL - MAGUA 300

and the left two-thirds of his face is painted red. The right third is painted black. Much silver is in his ears. His tomahawk is in his left hand. His cut-down musket in his right fist. Magua's attention is all focused to one point.

301 MAGUA'S LONG + TIGHT POV: MUNRO + CORA + ALICE 301

at the head of the column. This is the focus of Magua's attention.

302 WIDE FRONTAL: COLUMN, STANDARD BEARERS + MUNROS 302

Cora turns again to look for Hawkeye. *

302A CLOSER: CORA 302A *

doesn't see him, but something else has caught her eye. *

303 YOUNG HURON 303

running toward the column. Just one man. No musket. He's running and whooping like a dog charging from his master's front yard. Why?

304 CLOSER 304

the Huron arrives at the column, his tomahawk swings into his hand and he brains a British trooper who falls dead. The single Huron never breaks stride. He simply runs off again...

305 CORA 305

horrified, holds Alice tighter.

306 MUNRO 306

has seen it too. And now he sees...

307 62ND REGIMENT OF FOOT 307 *

fixing bayonets. A large sergeant unsheathes a two-handed claymore, facing the Hurons and other Indians... *

308 TROOPERS 308

of the 33rd present arms. Did they violate the surrender by carrying ammunition? Locks are cocked. There's the answer. *

MUNRO
Steady! No-one fires!

309 EXT. FORESTED HILLSIDES - OTHER TRIBES 309

are watching what happens. *

310 HEYWARD 310

scanning them.

HEYWARD
(to Sergeant Major)
Men are to stay in file, Sergeant Major! *

SERGEANT MAJOR
Yes sir!

Drums beat the cadence.

311 TROOPERS 311

step over the fallen soldier. Heads turn, they're on edge...

312 END OF COLUMN - HAWKEYE, UNCAS + CHINGACHGOOK 312

watching. They exchange looks: this is not good. Chingachgook cocks both Killdeer and his own musket.

313 HAWKEYE'S POV: FORESTED SLOPES 313

Hold. We start to make out detail in the shadow. Tree trunks. We become accustomed to the dimness. Now in the lower light * we see movement deeper in the forest. *

314 CLOSER 314

Many Huron and Ottawa are hidden in the shadows. They're * moving along parallel to the column, stalking it. Waiting... *

315 ANOTHER BRAVE 315

racing down the hill from the opposite flank towards the 62nd. *

316 TWO SOLDIERS 316 *

look at their sergeant. He nods. They wait until he's within ten feet of the column. Both bayonet the Indian. He's dead.

317 EXT. HILLSIDES - HURON + OTTAWA 317

saw what happened. But, they hold their ranks. *

318 MOHAWKS 318

among the British are slipping tomahawks into their hands, surreptitiously. Some are cocking flintlocks.

319 MUNRO 319

gallops his horse away from Cora and Alice towards the scene of the last attack. We hear him from the distance ordering...

MUNRO
Do not break ranks! I want these ranks to hold...!

Cora's frightened.

320 HAWKEYE'S 320

frustrated. He saw Munro leave Cora. He knows events have a momentum and it's accelerating.

321 CHINGACHGOOK + UNCAS 321

move next to the sergeant with the shackle keys who looks at them curiously as...

322 WOMEN 322

with children nervously search the threatening trees, hoping against hope these are isolated incidents. *

323 HEYWARD 323

draws his sword and is passing orders to his sergeant major, scanning the hills...

324 EXT. FORESTED SLOPE - MAGUA 324

His eyes see Munro.

325 WIDER + LOWER: MAGUA 325

raises his musket in his fist and emits a war whoop. WE NOW SEE there hundreds have been stalking the column, hidden in the trees, maybe thousands. Then... *

326 WIDE: ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE 326

FIRE from the trees crescendos within seconds revealing a spontaneous and massive ambush of mostly Hurons. They appear from behind every tree and it turns to a ROAR of musket fire, war whoops and screams as...

327 SOLDIERS + CIVILIANS 327

dropping like flies and seemingly thousands of Hurons attack down both slopes.

328 HAWKEYE 328

is being unshackled by Uncas. The sergeant is rising from the ground where Chingachgook knocked him. Chingachgook throws Hawkeye Killdeer and Hawkeye shrugs into his pouch and powder horn as he races with Uncas for the head of the column...

329 EXT. FORESTED SLOPE - MAGUA 329

charging down the hill...with his coterie of twenty Huron warriors, heading for the area in which he saw Munro.

330 CORA + ALICE 330

at the head of the disintegrating column. Cora's holding Alice's head to her bosom, covering her ear as if to protect her from the sounds.

331 HEYWARD 331

shouting orders.

SERGEANT MAJOR
Right-about face! March! First rank present!

HEYWARD
Fire!

332 REVERSE: 332

The volley knocks down fifteen of a horde of attacking Hurons.

SERGEANT MAJOR
Prime! Load! Second rank six paces forward! Present!

Hurons are twenty yards away and closing.

HEYWARD
Fire!

As the line of muskets belch smoke and fire...

333 WIDE: THE HILLS + PATH 333

We're shooting into the "v" of the valley with Hurons and other tribes pouring down from both sides. (IMPORTANT: the combined musket fire of Hurons, English and Mohawks generates tremendous clouds of smoke which obscure action, close off views, isolate pockets of combat into surreal tableaux that we'll move in and out of.)

334 BRITISH TROOPERS 334

using their useless muskets as clubs or with fixed bayonets -as the smoke and fog swirls among the men - fighting for their lives...

335 MAGUA 335

glides through the scenes, striking and hunting. Some of his coterie of braves near him. He sees...

336 BLONDE WOMAN 336

hugging the ground in fear. Magua throws her over. It's not Alice Munro. It's a woman protecting her baby. Magua walks on. One of the braves behind Magua raises his tomahawk. On his downswing...

337 HAWKEYE 337

running through surreal patches, thinks he glimpses Cora two hundred yards away.

HAWKEYE
Cora!

Chingachgook, on Hawkeye's left, slams down two Hurons with his war club.

338 CORA + ALICE 338

running through the chaos and murder and British troopers and Mohawks locked in struggle with Hurons. Cora's dress is torn. She holds Alice to her. There's a pistol in Cora's hand.

339 ONE HURON 339

scalping a prone soldier, rips the trophy from his head, turns and faces us. *

340 CORA 340

shoots him in the face.

341 EXTREMELY CLOSE: ALICE 341

and her eyes take it all in. And her affect starts to flatten. A blankness suffuses her expression and the girl withdraws from this reality into a deep dark cave inside her head.

342 HAWKEYE 342

locked into combat. He tomahawks one Huron's arm with a slashing downstroke and comes right back into the face of the second with his backswing while his right hand fires Killdeer at...

343 HURON 343

six feet from Uncas and about to shoot him in the back.

344 HAWKEYE 344

free for a moment, spins. He has no idea of direction any more. Everything is death in strange tableaux. Meanwhile:

345 MUNRO 345

hollering:

MUNRO
Cora! Alice!

He cuts down a Huron with his sword who is trying to leap at him from the right. An Osage warrior with red scalp-lock leaps on the back of Munro's horse, reaching over to stab down into Munro's neck. The old man's left hand grabs the warrior's knife hand in an iron grip. His right hand pulls his horse pistol and under his upraised arm fires backwards, point-blank, blowing the Osage off the back of his horse.

46 WIDER 346

Just then Munro's mount is shot. His horse rears up, throws Munro and falls on him.

347 HEYWARD 347

shouting orders over the deafening noise.

HEYWARD
Second rank fire! Six paces back!
Prime! Load! Third rank!
Present!

A well-oiled, well-drilled fighting machine, but there are fewer of them. They're getting cut. They close ranks automatically as a man drops. They're retreating in perfect order.

348 HURON WARRIOR 348

about to strike a downwards blow is pushed aside by Magua. *

349 CLOSER: MAGUA 349

His eyes drop to what's in front of him. The field goes quiet.

350 OVER MAGUA'S SHOULDER: MUNRO 350

his lower body trapped under his dead horse. Magua leans in towards him.

MAGUA
Grey Hair. I will cut your heart from your living chest in front of your eyes. As you die, know that I will put under the knife your children and wipe your seed from this earth forever...

Magua pulls his knife and as he leans down towards Munro.

351 MOHAWK + HURON 351

spin and flail furiously at each other with tomahawks and knives. The Huron goes down and then the Mohawk is shot. The Huron who shot him is cut down by a Ranger with tomahawk in one hand and bayonet in the other. Two Mohawks and three Rangers fighting back to back. They become an island swamped by Huron and Ottawa: amidst bodies and ground slippery with blood. As smoke obscures their image.

352 CORA + ALICE 352

in a group of civilian militia. Two of the militiamen are shot down. The third engages a Fox warrior. Cora and Alice run. *

353 MUNRO'S FACE 353

frozen in agony by shock.

354 MAGUA 354

reaching down and up into something, emerges and jams an object we barely see into the air. But his arm and shoulder and half his chest are splashed red with blood.

355 LONG SHOT: MAGUA 355

seen from far away, holding aloft the heart of Munro.

356 REVERSE: HAWKEYE 356

saw him and fights his way to attack when...

357 WHITE HORSE 357

crazed, CRASHES through men, knocking Hawkeye over...

358 CHINGACHGOOK 358

protecting Hawkeye, slams his war club into one Huron, breaking his attack, his arm and his skull and swings the other way burying the bladed end into the chest of an Ottawa who's behind him. Then...

359 HAWKEYE'S 359

up, looking wildly...

360 CAMERA JAMS INTO CLEARING SMOKE: 360

33rd Regiment of Foot and Heyward. They FIRE into our face.

361 CLOSER: HEYWARD 361

HEYWARD
Six paces back! Prime! Load! Rank two, present! Rank two, hold!

He grabs a partially loaded musket, the ramrod still in the barrel. They're taking fire. Men are dying. They're being pushed back.

362 AN ABNAKI 362

wearing a large cross, attacks Heyward from the side. One-handed, Heyward fires the musket into the man's chest, sending the ramrod through him. Then Heyward's shot in the thigh and a thrown tomahawk hits him in the head and knocks him sideways. Dazed. Barely able to stand. He uses the musket as a cane and...

HEYWARD
Rank two, six paces back! Rank one, present!

Rank two did not retreat six paces. They stand in confusion. Heyward looks to see what's wrong.

363 HEYWARD'S POV: THE REMNANTS OF THE 33RD REGIMENT OF FOOT 363

are standing in water. They're up against Lake George. Their backs are to the wall. Last stand. Heyward straightens.

364 TWO FRENCH OFFICERS 364

on horseback try to intercede in the slaughter of five women. One French officer is shot by a Huron. The other French officer runs through that Huron and shoots the second. Then his horse is shot out from under him and he goes down...

365 JESUIT 365

pleads with an Abnaki to give up a child he's holding by the legs in one hand. He offers his cross. The Abnaki throws the baby to the Jesuit, Pere Roubaud.

366 UNCAS 366

sees a flash of something yellow. So does Hawkeye. They charge into the swirling chaos of attacking bodies. As we lose sight of them...

367 ALICE 367

on her hands and knees. A massive Ottawa pulls her upright by her hair about to take her life and her scalp. He's struck by a rock in the hands of Cora which barely phases him. He bats her aside and returns to Alice, when suddenly...

368 OTTAWA WARRIOR 368

is spun, punched and tomahawked into the ground by Hawkeye. Uncas has Alice and Cora...

369 TWO RANGERS + A MOHAWK WARRIOR 369

from the earlier group are nearby. They combine with Hawkeye to fight their way out with bayonets and tomahawks. *

370 HAWKEYE, UNCAS, CHINGACHGOOK, TWO RANGERS, A MOHAWK + MUNRO'S DAUGHTERS 370

back through the swirling smoke. There seems to be a lull. Then they're hit from the side by musket fire. One of the Rangers is shot, the other wounded. Hurons attack. The Mohawk supports the wounded Ranger.

371 HAWKEYE 371

shields Cora as they back up.

372 CHINGACHGOOK 372

smashing his war club straight down on a Huron, reaches for the man's musket and shoots another. Then he sees...

373 SMOKE DRIFTING OVER WATER 373

It's glass-smooth. And the bows are barely visible of three or four Huron war canoes.

374 THE SHALLOWS - HAWKEYE, CHINGACHGOOK, UNCAS, CORA, ALICE, THE RANGER + THE MOHAWK 374

back into the water. They're pursued by Ottawa and Hurons as they fight their way to the canoes.

375 CORA 375

held up by Hawkeye, suddenly screams.

376 ANGLE 376

something underwater is pulling her down. An Ottawa brave rockets out of the shallows. Before he's erect, Hawkeye slams him back into the water and FIRES.

377 WOUNDED RANGER 377

has shoved a large birch canoe at them.

378 HAWKEYE 378

Suddenly, the Mohawk fighting with them is shot and spins to face Hawkeye. His hands rest on Hawkeye's shoulders. Hawkeye looks into his face. Tries to hold him up, tries to rescue him. A frozen moment. Hawkeye's staring into his eyes and the man is staring into Hawkeye's as the light goes out... Hawkeye lets him slide into the water and float away. He moves Cora and Alice towards the canoe...

CUT TO

379 EXT. LAKE GEORGE - WATER + SWIRLING SMOKE - DAY 379

The bottom of the frame is water like glass. Smoke obscures the background. Fingers tendril towards us. Out of the mist we HEAR small splashing and then the high bow of a war canoe defines itself. It's paddled towards us.

380 HAWKEYE, CHINGACHGOOK + UNCAS 380

Cora's behind Hawkeye. Alice and the wounded Ranger are near Uncas.

381 CLOSER: HAWKEYE + CORA 381

Cora looks left. Her eyes go wide.

CORA
No!

2 HAWKEYE 382

spins.

383 HEYWARD + TWO TROOPERS OF THE 33RD IN A SECOND CANOE 383

have emerged from the smoke ten feet from them. Heyward's aiming a horse pistol at Hawkeye.

384 HAWKEYE 384

is non-plussed. He doesn't stop paddling.

HAWKEYE
You got nothin' better to do today
on Lake George than shoot me, *
Major, then go ahead... *

Heyward's a hair's breadth from firing. Suddenly they hear the boom of muskets and rounds come in.

385 WIDE 385

They're being pursued by three boatloads - and then a fourth and fifth - of Huron.

386 HEYWARD 386

is indifferent to Huron musket balls. Hawkeye hasn't stopped paddling and pays Heyward no heed.

CORA
Stop it!!

Heyward comes to his senses. His head is gashed. A scarf, as a tourniquet, is tied around his leg. He lowers the gun.

HEYWARD
When you fall into British hands again, Nathaniel Poe, I will have you hanged. *

387 HURON CANOES 387

paddle hard and deep and the canoes power across the lake. *

388 HAWKEYE + HEYWARD'S CANOES 388

with less paddlers, plus wounded, are slower and will be overtaken. *

389 HAWKEYE 389

looks to Uncas. They both realize the same thing. Hawkeye nods and he, Uncas and Chingachgook begin to paddle furiously. The others match the doubled pace. They're sprinting ahead but the effort is exhausting. *

390 HURON CANOES 390

maintain their steady pace. Three or four Hurons fire. *

391 HAWKEYE'S CANOE 391

Musket balls ricochet on the water's surface. One rips a hole through the bow. Hawkeye sees one of the Redcoats in Uncas' canoe is giving out...

REDCOAT #1 *
Can't...keep it up...

HAWKEYE
Pull!

He renews the attack on the water with the paddle.

HEYWARD
(shouts)
How long?

CONTINUED

391 CONTINUED 391

HAWKEYE
(shouts)
Only chance we got is...
(breathless)
...to get more distance on 'em
and go to ground!

Heyward digs in. Like firecrackers in the distance, Huron muskets sound. A new hail of musket balls cut the fabric of the canoes. One Redcoat is shot in the back. He falls overboard.

HAWKEYE
(shouts)
Pull!!

392 HAWKEYE CANOE 392

sprints forward.

393 CLOSE: HAWKEYE 393

looks over his shoulder.

394 THE HURON CANOES 394

They're pulling away from them.

HAWKEYE
Pull...!

More Huron musket balls hit water nearby.

395 REDCOAT 395

in Heyward's boat is shot. BUT...the .65 caliber ball didn't penetrate his skin. The Redcoat - amazed - picks it off the floor of the canoe.

REDCOAT #2
Spent.

Distance caught up with eighteenth century ballistics. They're out of smoothbore musket range.

396 HAWKEYE CANOE 396

HAWKEYE
(to Heyward)
Head for...for the white water.

HEYWARD
Do you hear me, sir!
(exhausted)
If you ever fall...into
(MORE)

CONTINUED

396 CONTINUED 396

HEYWARD (Cont'd)
British hands...
(breathes)
What white water?

397 HEYWARD + REDCOAT'S POV: LAKE 397

divided by a spit of land. The right fork becomes a river with white water rapids.

398 HAWKEYE CANOE - HAWKEYE 398

paddling now, too, as they furiously jam for the white water that will shoot them way ahead of the Hurons.

399 UNCAS 399

leaps off the stern of Hawkeye's canoe and climbs up the stern of Heyward's and takes control. He roughly gestures to the Redcoat and the Major to stop paddling. He and Hawkeye will pilot the two canoes.

400 EXT. WHITE WATER - WIDE - DAY 400

The canoes enter the white water and they're so light, they're jet-propelled.

'01 CANOE POV: EIGHT FOOT WAVE 401

racing the same direction they are. They hit it straight on and it shoots over them and they're drenched by two waves coming from the sides.

402 HAWKEYE + CHINGACHGOOK 402

paddle like fiends to get momentum and control.

403 UNCAS' CANOE 403

Same thing. When they crested the wave Uncas hollers at them to "pull" and they do. As soon as they're through it, Uncas slams the paddle in the water and makes the canoe revolved a hundred and eighty degrees in a vortex so that it's now going through stern-first or the stern became the bow, so that Uncas could pilot it a different way through a hazard of...

404 EXPOSED ROCKS 404

jutting out of the water.

405 WIDE - BOTH CANOES 405

Hawkeye didn't have to turn because Chingachgook, at the bow, uses his paddle to shove the canoe away from jutting rocks. Uncas does the same. Past the jutting rocks, Uncas swings it back around while...

406 WHITE WATER 406

smashes into the camera.

407 ALICE + CORA 407

as the canoe roller-coasters and water bursts the bow. Then suddenly it's through and the water is miraculously smooth.

408 CANOES 408

The Ranger, the Redcoats and even Heyward feel the exhilaration of the ride. That's because they think they're home free.

HAWKEYE
Here's where it gets tricky...

Heyward turns to look in front of him. He doesn't know what the hell Hawkeye's talking about.

409 HEYWARD'S POV: THE RIVER AHEAD 409

looks glass-smooth. Although...there is a distant ROAR of sorts Then Heyward realizes: something's wrong with this picture.

410 CLOSER: HEYWARD 410

The look on his face starts to change.

411 HEYWARD'S POV: TIGHTER 411

The glass surface of the river continues to a line then falls off the end of the world. The river just ends...

412 BOTH CANOES: HEYWARD, REDCOATS, THE RANGER 412

realize they're heading for the lip of a waterfall. There's a couple of outcroppings of rock in the center at the very edge. We are at Glen Falls.

HAWKEYE
Don't move...

413 AERIAL SHOT 413

From the other side of the falls. It's a two hundred foot high, death-defying cataract. The canoes - slightly above us - will go right over.

414 TWO CANOES 414

At the last moment, Hawkeye and Uncas land both on either side of the larger rock outcropping. It is literally at the lip of the falls.

415 HEYWARD 415

grabs a rock to anchor the bow of the canoe. He loses his grip. The canoe rockets for the edge.

416 UNCAS 416

lurches sideways, grabs a tree root. He is the only link of the canoe to earth. The bow, with Heyward, is literally hanging over the edge. Uncas strains and pulls the canoe to the rock. He gestures to Heyward.

417 HEYWARD 417

crawls forward and makes the island. Then the two Redcoats. Finally Uncas. The canoe rockets over the falls. Meanwhile...

418 OTHER SIDE OF ISLAND 418

Hawkeye has beached his canoe and is camouflaging it with driftwood and brush. As they clamber over the high pieces of broken limestone, we see Hawkeye is slipping into a crevice. He motions to Cora. Uncas carries the wounded Ranger. Heyward helps Alice...

CUT TO

419 INT. GLEN FALLS CAVES - FISSURE - TWILIGHT 419

The irregular opening of medium blue sky is obscured by the black silhouetted forms of Hawkeye, Cora and then the others entering.

HEYWARD
Where do we go from here?

HAWKEYE
We don't.

HEYWARD
I don't understand!

HAWKEYE
This is it, as far as we can go.
(beat)
If we're lucky, they'll be figurin' we can't have come this way and we must've beached our canoes and headed cross land. If we're very lucky, they'll figure we went over the falls.

HEYWARD
Then what?

HAWKEYE
Then we take the south rim down the mountain and it's twelve miles cross country to Fort Edward.

HEYWARD
And if we're unlucky?

CONTINUED

419 CONTINUED 419

HAWKEYE
You will have to forego the pleasure of hangin' me.

420 REVERSE: WIDE 420

Hawkeye helps Cora; Heyward, the Ranger. Chingachgook carries Alice, down the rockface into a cave. We hear a distant ROAR reverberating off the walls.

421 ANOTHER ANGLE: THE WALLS 421

are scooped out, bone-like hollows eroded by tumbling water. At an earlier time the formation was part of the falls.

422 HAWKEYE + CORA 422

reach the irregular floor of the chamber. The ROAR is louder.

WIDEN TO REVEAL a curtain of falling water. They're behind the cataract, probably a third of the way down its height. Light through the water strikes them with a silver luminescence. They're exhausted. The others join them. They have to almost shout to be heard.

423 CHINGACHGOOK 423

followed by Uncas, takes stock of their supplies. They check their powder. They have almost none. Uncas shares his with Hawkeye. The Redcoat's cartridge case is soaked, the paper cartridges a soggy mess. Heyward has none. The Ranger has two left. In Mohican, Chingachgook decides some things. Hawkeye and Uncas nod. Heyward approaches Hawkeye.

HEYWARD
Any powder?

HAWKEYE
(crossing to Cora)
Only one or two loads. *

424 CORA 424

is soaked to the bones. Hawkeye strips off his buckskin hunting shirt and wrings it out. Cora turns her back, strips off her white blouse and puts on the faster-drying chamois.

CORA
Are we safe?

HAWKEYE
Maybe...

CORA
Our father? Did you see my father?

425 EXTREME CLOSE UP: HAWKEYE 425

The look on his face tells it all.

CORA
Tell me!

426 TWO-SHOT 426

Hawkeye takes Cora away from the group and turns her by her shoulders and whispers to her. We don't hear what he says. Cora drops to her knees and places her hands over her eyes and face like a little girl trying to make something bad go away.

427 HAWKEYE 427

Leads her to a depression, his arm around her shoulders, her face covered and she cries softly into his shoulder.

428 EXTREME CLOSE UP: CORA 428

says into Hawkeye's ear, after she looks O.S....

CORA
Say nothing to Alice...!

Hawkeye nods.

429 ALICE 429

stands in the chamber not far from the wall of water, fascinated with its shimmer. She's oblivious to all the events and everything going on around her...

430 HEYWARD 430

sees Cora and Hawkeye together and turns away.

431 GROUP 431

Uncas watches Alice. The wounded Ranger has fallen asleep. The Redcoat is exhausted. Hawkeye and Cora against the wall.

CUT TO

432 EXT. RIVER BANK - RIVER FALLS ARE IN MIST AND RED SKY - TWILIGHT 432

A landscape with mist rearlit by the red light of the sun that's already behind the mountains. The blues are turning purple and the greens are turning black and the white highlights of the foaming water are going rose. Reflecting the darkening sky, where the surface isn't broken, the water is fast-moving metal... SUDDENLY: a shaved head and muscled back stands into the foreground. It moves down the shore away from camera. He's followed by other Huron warriors. They're two hundred yards away from the Glen Falls island.

433 HURON 433

looks at the island of rock and trees and tilts his head, curiously...

CUT TO

434 EXT. FOREST ABOVE CANYON AND FALLS - GREY WOLF - TWILIGHT 434 *

watches the Hurons below make their way towards the edge of the falls.

435 OVER HIS SHOULDER: THREE MORE WOLVES 435

join him, moving frenetically, uneasily... The leader of the pack looks up and howls as his eyes go white reflecting the new moon.

436 INT. GLEN FALLS CAVE - HAWKEYE - NIGHT 436

hears the distant howl. He's now lit silver blue by the moonlight through the falling water. Hawkeye knows it means Hurons are out there. He exchanges worried glances with Uncas and Chingachgook.

437 UNCAS 437

immediately starts up the right acclivity to one fissure, and Chingachgook moves carefully to the first fissure. Hawkeye follows.

438 HAWKEYE 438

His countenance gives way momentarily. All his experience seems of no avail. He touches the side of Cora's face. Grabs Killdeer and follows Chingachgook.

439 ALICE 439

sensing new danger, slips away on her own.

440 CORA 440

crosses to the Ranger who's semi-conscious, feverish and getting delirious. She can't do a thing except hold his hand and think of her father.

CUT TO

441 INT. SOUTH FISSURE - HAWKEYE + CHINGACHGOOK 441

below the edge, listen and wait, testing the environment with all their senses...

442 NORTH FISSURE - UNCAS 442

against one wall, has his ear cocked, monitoring, facing away from the sky...

443 ALICE 443

looks at the sky through the fissure. She sees the starfields and feels the silver moonlight pull her forward. She starts out onto the island, oblivious, unaware she'll expose them. Suddenly...

444 UNCAS 444

yanks her down next to him. He pulls her head into his chest, looking out over the edge, his tomahawk in front of him, his musket near his right hand. There's no sign she was seen.

445 UNCAS + ALICE 445

He relaxes, looks at her and puts his finger to his lips telling her to be silent. Languorously, she lies back, closes her eyes and lays a hand on his shoulder, palm up, as if he were a prince in a romantic fantasy. Uncas tries to restrain her.

446 ALICE'S 446

eyes slowly open. Oblivion disappears. It's replaced with escalating fear. She holds onto Uncas with desperation. Her fingers claw his shoulders. She buries her face in his chest.

ALICE
Uncas...

Her body shudders. Her terror's total. He tries to restrain and calm her. She won't let him. Then her mouth seeks his and in the passion of despair and fear and wanting life, she holds him between her thighs. And Uncas is confused, but Alice whispers his name and he responds. He loves her in the half-light.

447 UNCAS 447

his hand buried in her hair irradiated by the moon, then she seems to reach some emotional climax and begins to cry softly, and Uncas stops making love to her and holds her. Then she's flooded with shame. He reaches for her. She jerks away. He reaches for her again and clutches her to him. And she breaks down. Then he turns her face to him, but her expression has completely flattened.

448 WIDER ANGLE 448

She's not a lover to Uncas now. She's pitiful and stricken and he comforts her. *

CUT TO

(OMITTED 449-457)

448A EXT. RIVER - MAGUA - NIGHT 448A

beaches a canoe on the bank. He and eight braves ease out. His war paint is fresh: green handprints on his chest and black and green on his face. Black plumes are affixed to his scalp-lock and his shawl is over his left shoulder. The right arm carrying his musket is exposed. Many scalps are tied to his tomahawk. He walks towards us approaching the island, two hundred yards away...

CUT TO

458 INT. SOUTH FISSURE - HAWKEYE - NIGHT 458

checks his powder horn. Nearly empty. He looks at Chingachgook.

CUT TO

459 INT. GLEN FALLS ISLAND, CAVE - CORA - NIGHT 459

with the Ranger, looks up. Hawkeye enters. The look on his face. Then hers. They've been discovered. Now they're backed into a hole in the ground with no powder and no way out.

CUT TO

(OMITTED 460)

61 INT. GLEN FALLS, CAVE - HAWKEYE + CHINGACHGOOK - NIGHT 461

Chingachgook talks to him in Mohican. Momentarily the anger and frustration is seen on Hawkeye's face. All his experience and craft has been to no avail. He looks at Cora. Back to Chingachgook. Chingachgook states something terse in Mohican. Hawkeye agrees. Heyward's confused. He doesn't know what they're talking about. Cora has understood Chingachgook's intent perfectly.

CORA
Yes. Go ahead.

HEYWARD
(explodes)
What the bloody hell plan is this?

HAWKEYE
(to Cora)
In this there is a chance. If I live, I can try to free you. If we don't go, there is no powder, there's too many of them. Though my heart would keep me here, in that there is no chance. None. I can do nothing. Do you understand?

CONTINUED

461 CONTINUED 461

CORA
Yes. I want you to go.

HEYWARD
Coward! Coward back at the fort. Coward here.

Hawkeye uses discipline not to kill the man.

CORA
You try. With all you have. To save yourself. If the worst happens, and only one of us survives, something of the other does, too...

CUT TO

462 INT. NORTH FISSURE - UNCAS - NIGHT 462

listens. Hears. Then he inches above cover to see...

463 UNCAS' POV: THE RIVER + SIX WAR CANOES 463

of Hurons approach to assault the island carrying torches.

CUT TO

464 INT. GLEN FALLS CAVE - CORA + HAWKEYE - NIGHT 464

She's holding him. In the rigid language of her body is the struggle to contain her fear.

HAWKEYE
(very close)
If they don't kill you, they may take you north up into Canada. A warrior may take you for a wife.

465 CORA 465

turns aside. Hawkeye insists.

HAWKEYE
(continues)
Listen. Submit. You hear me? You're strong. You stay alive. I will find you...no matter how far, how long it takes...

CORA
(nods, low)
...never doubt what you're doing.

466 RANGER 466

conscious now, arranges his crushed body to face the direction from which will come the attack as...

467 HEYWARD 467

puts Alice, who's entered, behind him as... Uncas hits the floor of the cave. Now the first glow from Huron torches starts to light the walls. They're coming...

468 CHINGACHGOOK 468

has their weapons slung over his back. He says something in Mohican. Uncas spins looks at Alice: her expression's vacant.

469 HAWKEYE'S KNIFE 469

cuts a lock of Cora's hair. He folds it into his shirt. The orange light from Huron torches, now closer, plays on the wall behind her.

We hear many Huron approach.

470 CHINGACHGOOK + UNCAS 470

now run out of the cave and throw themselves into the curtain of water. This is their exit. *

471 HAWKEYE 471

engraves her image in his memory one last time and then sprints across the floor towards the water...

472 WHAT HAWKEYE SEES: JAMMING AT THE WATERFALL 472

and then through it into...

473 SUBJECTIVE CAMERA: UP 473

An awful CRUSHING ROAR. We explode out the front of a white cataract a third of the way from the top and we fall down away from the world. *

474 EXT. GLEN FALLS - HAWKEYE - NIGHT 474

tumbles downs the falls; rolling, tumbling through white water; * then through air; then back into cascading white water again, * disappearing...

475 THE RIVER BELOW - UNCAS' + CHINGACHGOOK'S 475

bodies hit, disappear and don't surface. It looks unsurviveable.

476 HAWKEYE'S POV: FALLING 476

Sheets of water fall with us. The bottom races towards us at a hundred miles an hour... Just before we hit...

CUT TO

477 INT. GLEN FALLS, CAVES - FLAMING TORCH - NIGHT 477

WIDEN. The cave is filled with Hurons. The Redcoat is dead in the corner. A group of braves moves away from the body of the Ranger.

478 HEYWARD'S 478

surrounded. The women are behind him. He slashes at one Huron with his sword and is clubbed down by a giant. *

479 MAGUA 479

enters. His blanket, like a shawl, over his left shoulder, black-dyed plumes in his hair. He's imperturbable.

480 MAGUA'S HAND 480

reaches out and touches Cora's hair. Cora is frozen to the spot. His hand drops away from the hated Munros and as Magua turns to go, he says something low in Huron and the two women are jerked towards the fissures. Heyward is dragged by the arms.

CUT TO

481 EXT. RIVER - WHITE WATER - NIGHT 481

miles from the falls. We see a figure. It's Chingachgook, nearly spent, rolling and tumbling through the fast-moving white water. He submerges, then surfaces again. He appears exhausted by the fall and ride. *

482 CHINGACHGOOK'S POV: WATER 482

rocketing at us, battering and drowning us. We glimpse something downstream...

483 CHINGACHGOOK 483

tries to focus, slammed against rocks, he's striking out towards the right, swimming against the current. He's grabbing for something.

484 KILLDEER'S MUZZLE 484

and leather shoulder-strap. Chingachgook's hand grabs it. The current rushing past tries to steal him from Uncas and Hawkeye, who're also beaten, bloodied, exhausted. They pull the older, larger man from the water and...

485 ON THE ROCK 485

all three lie there, almost devoid of energy. Then Hawkeye rises, looks at the others. Chingachgook nods. He's up. Then Uncas, and they're moving off into the calm eddy between the rock they landed on and the shoreline. *

CUT TO

486 EXT. FOREST - HURONS - DAY 486

move along animal paths.

487 CORA + ALICE 487

struggle through the branches of trees. No-one helps them. When they fall behind, they are pushed forward.

488 HEYWARD 488

badly beaten, bound, staggers ahead to get behind Magua. Then:

HEYWARD
If Magua give women to Yengeese soldiers...will receive many gifts.

MAGUA
(as if considering)
Gifts?

HEYWARD
Three, four oxen...much wampum.

MAGUA *
Wampum? *

HEYWARD *
Yes. *

MAGUA
Does Yengeese Major have property * across salt sea?

HEYWARD
Yes.

MAGUA
Yengeese Major give all property * to Magua. Magua give Yengeese Major much wampum, many gifts, * maybe three, four oxen. *

Magua looks at Heyward derisively. Does this white man think * he's an idiot?

HEYWARD
Gold could be arranged.

MAGUA
For Munro children?

HEYWARD
Yes.

CONTINUED

488 CONTINUED 488

MAGUA
How much gold has master of the Yengeese?

HEYWARD
The King? The King has mountains of gold!

Long pause as if Magua and King George II were seriously considering this transaction.

MAGUA
Not enough.

Heyward is first realizing with whom he's playing.

HEYWARD
What is enough?

MAGUA
Heart. Give Magua new heart.

Magua totally disdains the Englishman and walks away from him, starting up a steeper forested hill.

CUT TO

489 EXT. FOREST - HAWKEYE, UNCAS + CHINGACHGOOK - TWILIGHT 489

running cross-country after the Huron column. They leap over fallen logs and keep going.

490 FRONTAL: HAWKEYE 490

breathing hard, his lips drawn back, sweat stains his buckskins.

491 PROFILE: UNCAS 491

runs. Then he sees something.

492 BENT BRANCH 492

where Cora and Alice were struggling up the animal path.

493 REAR SHOT 493

as they race across a stream away from us after the war party and into the night...

CUT TO

494 thru 496 OMITTED 494 thru 496

496A EXT. FOREST - CORA - NIGHT 496A

supporting Alice, is dragged forward by a Huron warrior by a woven rawhide thong tied to her neck.

496B MAGUA 496B

is imperturbable.

496C HURONS 496C

move quickly down into a ravine.

496D HEYWARD 496D

is shoved forward.

CUT TO

497 EXT. FOREST - RUNNING FEET - DAY 497

Long, loping strides.

498 HAWKEYE + UNCAS 498

cover ground like long-distance runners. No noise except their hard, even breathing. They're moving down a clear trail.

499 CHINGACHGOOK 499

out on the flank, running hard.

500 CLOSER: HAWKEYE 500

lips drawn back, determined, flashing through the hard verticals of the forest, now leaps down an embankment into the soft loam and keeps going.

CUT TO

501 EXT. HURON VILLAGE - ORNATE CHAIR - DAY 501

on a rude platform. The entire village is crowded around in a large circle. They all wait for someone. They've been waiting a long time. In the perimeter warriors keep Huron at bay for some reason. We see Magua. He stands apart. They wait. Then...

502 ANCIENT SACHEM 502

is led to the dais by three women down the main street between the neat rows of birch bark lodges. Many scalps and trophies from the massacre are in evidence. He sits on the raised platform. He looks to be in his nineties.

His dark wrinkled face is contrasted by his long white hair. His robe is painted in hieroglyphical representation of combat. He wears numerous silver and gold medals, gifts of French, English and Dutch governors. Most startling is his face. His dark and lined skin is enhanced by delicate lines of tattooing. He looks up to Magua.

CONTINUED

502 CONTINUED 502

SACHEM
(in Huron; subtitled)
The tomahawks of your young men have been very red.

MAGUA
(in Huron; subtitled)
Many of the Yengeese are dead, great Sachem.
(sound dissolve to English)
I have brought three of my prisoners, to honor you. Two are the children of Munro. Whose scalp hangs on my lodge pole. And whose heart I cut from his chest.

Now we SEE Cora on the ground. Defeat and fear are held in place by her determination. Alice looks around, in another place. Heyward's hands are bound behind his back with a piece of wood wedged through his elbows.

CUT TO

503 EXT. DIFFERENT FOREST - WIDE FRONTAL: UNCAS, HAWKEYE + CHINGACHGOOK - DAY 503

running. Then Uncas drops and the other two follow.

504 WIDE OVER THEIR SHOULDERS: THE HURON "CASTLE" 504

seen in the distance through sparse trees. They have dropped at the very periphery of the forest where the woods end. (The lay of the land is important for action that follows: the village is built in a meadow. To the left is a cliff face that rises to a rocky promontory. On the right is a path that winds up to the promontory and beyond, across the mountains.) Hawkeye sees...

505 HAWKEYE'S POV: THE VILLAGE, CAPTIVES + HURON CROWD 505

in the center, outside the largest lodge.

506 HAWKEYE 506

slams the earth with his fists. They didn't intercept them in time. Difficult odds just became impossible.

CUT TO

507 EXT. HURON VILLAGE - MAGUA - DAY 507

MAGUA
...the earth was pale. Our tomahawks were bright. Now they are dull from war. And the Huron rich with trophies of honor.
(beat)
Magua will sell the English officer to Les Francais and the reward is my gift to you, wise one.
(beat)
The women - children of the white war chief - will burn in our fires so all can share in this.

The Sachem considers this. Then he looks up and sees something beyond Magua.

508 MAGUA 508

senses the Sachem's eye line...

509 HAWKEYE 509

unarmed, walking through Hurons. A young boy rushes at him. Hawkeye, at the last possible second, dodges. Others catch and restrain the boy. The Hurons are astounded a European would simply walk into their camp.

10 CORA 510

sees him enter, doesn't believe he's here.

CORA
Nathaniel!

Hawkeye glances at her, doesn't respond. The situation is a stick of dynamite ready to go off.

HAWKEYE
(to Heyward; low)
Translate for me, Major. Into French. Every word... as I say it.

Magua starts towards Hawkeye, his tomahawk slipping into his hand.

HAWKEYE
(to Sachem)
I come to you unarmed and in peace to unstop your ears, wise one. Because the Hurons are misled by the words of the wolf who's never spoken the truth.

CONTINUED

510 CONTINUED 510

Sachem gestures with his hand to Magua. Magua reluctantly stops advancing on Hawkeye. Heyward's French translation has faded to a murmur. We hear Hawkeye's English.

HAWKEYE
Let the children of the dead Colonel Munro go free and take fire out of the English anger over the murder of their helpless ones.

MAGUA
(to Sachem)
Our father, Montcalm, is greater than the Yengeese in the arts of war. The Huron do not fear English anger.

HAWKEYE
(to Sachem)
Wise one, the French fathers made peace and swore to their honor not to break the friendship. Magua broke it. It is false that the French would not be friends, still, to the Huron.

Sachem reacts.

MAGUA
(laughs)
It made our French father happy to never have to fight the same Yengeese again. He told me this without telling me this.

Hawkeye realizes this is true.

HAWKEYE
So the Huron are the servants of the French? To do what the French are shamed to do?

MAGUA
No.
(to Sachem)
Huron serve no-one. The French father believes he fooled Magua because he is so proud of his cleverness, he is blind. But it is the Huron path that Magua walks down, not the French one.
(beat)
Now, Les Francais, also, fear Huron. That is good.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

510 CONTINUED (2) 510

MAGUA (Cont'd)
When the Huron is strong from their fear, we will make the terms of trade with Les Francais. And we will trade as the white man trades. Take land from Abnakes; fur from the Osage, Sauk and Fox. And make the Huron great. Over other tribes. No less than the whites, as strong as the whites.

Hawkeye appears to be losing his debate with Magua.

HAWKEYE
(to Sachem)
Magua would use the ways of Les Francais and the Yengeese...

MAGUA
(to Sachem)
The red man put down the bow, picked up the fire stick and became the best warrior in the forest. Yes. It is the only way.

HAWKEYE
Would the Huron make his Algonquin brothers foolish with brandy and steal his lands to sell them for gold to the white man? Would the Huron have greed for more land than a man can use? Like Francais Black Robes do? Would Huron kill tribes with disease? Would the Huron fool Seneca into taking all the furs of all the animals of the forest for beads and brandy? But sell the fur to the white man for gold?
(beat; to Sachem)
Those are the ways of Yengeese and Les Francais masters. Are they the ways of Huron men who hunt and work the land? Or of dogs?
(beat)
Magua's heart is twisted. He would make himself into what twisted him. A Dog, become Master of Dogs. But are Huron dogs?
(beat)
Magua's way is false. It is like the white sickness.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

510 CONTINUED (3) 510

HAWKEYE (Cont'd)
Magua's way will bring only sadness and shame. Is there another way? I don't know.
(pauses)
I am Nathaniel of the Yengeese; Hawkeye, adopted son of Chingachgook, of the Mohican people.
(beat)
Let the children of the dead Munro go free.
(beat)
I speak the truth.

Magua starts to rebut. Sachem holds up his hand and stops him. Nobody talks. Sachem whispers to the older men on either side of him.

510A MAGUA 510A

waits for the decision.

510B CORA 510B

looks to Alice, then to Hawkeye.

510C HAWKEYE 510C

exchanges a desperate look with Cora and then senses the Sachem is staring at him from the perspective of nearly a century of laws and judgments. Then... to every word.

SACHEM
The white man comes like a day that has passed. And night enters our future with him...
(pause)
Our council talks since I was a boy: what is the Huron to do?
(pause)
But Magua would lead Huron down paths that make us not Hurons.
(the judgment)
Dark girl burn in fire to heal the twisted heart of Magua.

Cora, hearing the sentence... Hawkeye's losing her.

SACHEM
(continuing)
Munro daughter with moon in her hair must be Magua's wife so Munro's seed doesn't die...

Alice is gone, living in some dark recess of her mind.

CONTINUED

510C CONTINUED 510C

SACHEM
(continuing; dissolves back to French)
...and Yengeese officer not go to Les Francais, but back to Yengeese so their hatred burns less bright. La Longue Carabine, go in peace.

People move, start to implement the sentence. Hawkeye's panicked. Cora is jerked upright. She looks at Hawkeye in terror. Sachem is starting to depart.

HAWKEYE
No! Listen.
(to Heyward)
Tell him I'll trade him! Me for her! Tell him!!

Heyward translates into rapid-fire French.

HAWKEYE
(shouts)
I am La Longue Carabine! My death is a great honor to the Huron. Take me!

Cora is jerked forward by three Hurons. Magua grabs Alice. Cora strikes at Magua. He knocks her aside. Chaos and confusion. Meanwhile:

MAGUA
(French; subtitled)
This is not the voice of wisdom. I go to the Hurons of the Lakes! You are women. Send your arrows and guns to the Seneca; beg from them venison to eat, corn to grind. Slaves, dogs, rabbits, thieves... I spit on you!

Those Hurons who hear, do so in a deadly, boding silence. Magua and his fourteen hard-core braves start out as...

511 SACHEM 511

heard Heyward's translation. He looks at Heyward, then looks at Hawkeye and he nods his head.

512 HAWKEYE 512

sees this. His eyes go to Cora. They've stopped dragging her towards the fire pit. Hawkeye steps forward to surrender. Cora is thrown at him. Cora looks around wildly. Instead of taking Hawkeye, two warriors grab Heyward.

513 HEYWARD 513

is immediately hamstrung and his legs collapse. He gasps. He's caught under the arms and dragged forward.

HAWKEYE
I said to trade me!

Hawkeye's holding Cora. Heyward struggles to be seen. *

HEYWARD
...compliments, Mr. Poe. *
(pause)
Take her and get out. *

CORA
(standing)
What are they doing to Duncan?
Duncan!

He's gone. They start to ease away from the mass of Hurons.

HAWKEYE
(low to himself)
And my compliments to you... *

CORA
Alice?

Hawkeye's concentration is on backing out of the Huron mob. Will the Sachem's judgment be honored? Will some warriors hack down Cora and Hawkeye? As they go... *

514 CORA 514

moves to her sister. But Hawkeye holds her tightly as they retreat.

515 CORA'S POV: ALICE 515

with Magua's group crosses towards the path. He drags Alice behind him like baggage. She regains her feet. Magua is oblivious to her. He's heading towards the plateau. * * *

CUT TO

516 EXT. FOREST, TREE LINE - CHINGACHGOOK + UNCAS - DAY 516

Uncas sees Magua's direction. Uncas touches his father, grabs his musket and races off. Chingachgook reaches to stop him, but he's too late. Chingachgook's hand in the air...

517 TWO-SHOT: HAWKEYE + CORA 517

near the tree line. Hawkeye has eyes only for...

518 HAWKEYE'S POV: HURONS 518

moving towards fire pit. One turns to watch Hawkeye and Cora depart. Will he arouse others to attack? Behind him others are doing something to Heyward and flames leap up.

519 CORA'S EYES 519

are on Alice, off to the right in the meadow.

520 HAWKEYE 520

tense. They're almost there.

521 CHINGACHGOOK 521

holding Killdeer. *

522 CHINGACHGOOK'S POV: MASSED HURON 522

$ky and flames. Suddenly, Heyward's stood upright into the fire, bound to a bracket by his arms. As the flames start devouring him...

523 HAWKEYE + CORA 523

close to Chingachgook and the tree line...

524 CHINGACHGOOK 524

tosses Hawkeye Killdeer. As fast as he jams it into his shoulder, he FIRES.

525 HEYWARD 525

among the hollering Hurons, is shot dead. It goes unnoticed.

CUT TO

526 EXT. PROMONTORY - UNCAS - DAY 526

half-way up the rock face. He's approaching an overhang. He climbs with a reckless desperation...

527 EXT. STREAM - HAWKEYE + CHINGACHGOOK 527

pound across the to the meadow towards Magua's path... *

528 CORA 528

trying to stay with them, scrambles up... *

529 EXT. PROMONTORY - UNCAS 529

reaches the overhang. It juts away from the face six feet.

530 THE CEILING OF THE OVERHANG 530

Uncas' hand jams into a crack in the granite, forms a fist and twists, making a wedge. He swings out, dangling in space by the hand wedged into the rock. His right hand reaches out and up, searching the vertical face for...

531 UNCAS' HAND 531

...a rock flake. An indentation. Anything... His fingers find a diagonal crevice and...

532 UNCAS 532

swings out, now hanging by the vertical face above the overhang. His features are distorted with determination. Nothing will stop him. His right hand grabs another rock. His arms snap him up. Then push. He's on the ledge. Moving fast...

CUT TO

533 EXT. PROMONTORY - HURONS - DAY 533

on point are approaching the path above the promontory. Five warriors are ahead of Magua. One behind him drags Alice.

534 FIRST 534

Huron starts up the narrow path. Suddenly...

35 UNCAS 535

slams him off the rock with the butt of his musket.

536 WIDE ANGLE 536

Two's musket coming up. Uncas swings. FIRES. Before he's fallen Uncas bayonets Three.

537 FOURTH 537

FIRES, misses, swings. Uncas slips the swung musket, but it catches his elbow. Uncas' musket falls. Before it hits the ground his tomahawk is out and hacks Four over the edge...

538 MAGUA 538

running forward past Five, confronts Uncas head on. It's incredibly fast.

539 UNCAS' 539

three tomahawk swings are dodged by Magua whose own knife streaks like silver flashes. Uncas, gashed on arms and chest, feints right and slams Magua with an open hand, closes and the men are intertwined steel and muscle...and Magua throws Uncas. Going with him and rolling off Uncas, Magua's knife flashes into his armpit. Uncas' right arm is useless. He scrambles up. Next to the expertise of a mature warrior like Magua, Uncas' raw, young determination may not be enough.

540 EXT. MEADOW - CHINGACHGOOK 540

freezes.

541 EXT. PROMONTORY - UNCAS 541

closing, swings. Magua moves inside, stabs Uncas twice, turns him to face the edge, ripping his head left to expose the right underside of his throat.

542 CLOSE: MAGUA'S 542

knife arm punches forward.

543 WIDE: PROMONTORY 543

Uncas falls down the face onto the rocks.

544 CHINGACHGOOK 544

seeing his boy killed, CRIES out and is charging up the path, Hawkeye following.

545 EXT. PROMONTORY - ALICE 545

backs to the edge..

546 MAGUA 546

moves on Alice. His knife is low, about to strike. She stares at him. Her eyes are like pools of deep water, calm, open, almost beatific. It stops Magua...

547 MAGUA 547

inexplicably, drops his knife hand. He's riveted by her. About him, there's a glimmer of something else. He wears a human face for this one moment. He reaches out with his other hand to offer her safety. To bring her back from the edge...

548 ALICE 548

looks down at Uncas, her lover, dead on the rocks below. She turns to Magua with enigmatic calm. Her eyes seem to see into him. She steps off the edge. She falls to her death next to Uncas...

549 EXT. MEADOW - CORA 549

collapses to her knees on the ground and her face falls forward into her hands...

550 HURON WARRIORS 550

are running down the path to intercept Chingachgook, charging uphill, fueled by a father's rage, and Hawkeye. One Huron aims at the center of Chingachgook's chest...

551 HAWKEYE 551

FIRES past his father's side. The Huron's blown off the path. Hawkeye races to reload on the run... *

552 EXT. PROMONTORY - MAGUA 552

sees the approach of Chingachgook.

553 TO CHINGACHGOOK 553

Huron warriors are an irrelevance. He slams one aside with his musket. *

554 HAWKEYE 554

FIRES.

555 HURON 555

with tomahawk, about to blindside Chingachgook, is SHOT DOWN.

556 MAGUA 556

charging Chingachgook.

557 VERY WIDE 557

Two men, like dots, race to collide at the center of the promontory. Now the others fall back... It's one-on-one. * * Hawkeye slows...

558 COMBATANTS 558

Magua - confident, pumped up - feints with his left, his tomahawk appearing in his right, sweeping backhand, while his left, magically holding his blade, is jamming up to gut Chingachgook. Chingachgook's dead. Except...

559 CHINGACHGOOK 559

isn't there. He rolled and, on one knee with his back to Magua, his arm slams rearward. The massive war club crashes into Magua's back. * * *

560 MAGUA 560

stunned, turns to hatchet Chingachgook...

561 CHINGACHGOOK 561

- now up and towering - slams his club right into Magua's assault... destroying it, breaking Magua's right arm. And... *

562 CHINGACHGOOK 562 *

...with the momentum, spins like a shot-putter and the next blow cripples Magua's left side and crushes part of his chest. *

563 ANOTHER BLOW 563

destroys Magua's collar and shoulder.

564 MAGUA 564

amazed. His body is broken and crippled, but he still stands. He looks into the eyes of the last warrior of the Mohicans.

565 CHINGACHGOOK 565

CHINGACHGOOK
UNCAS!!!

And he spins and swings. The bladed side of the war club punches into Magua's chest, caving him in two. *

566 WIDE 566

Magua dies in the dust.

567 HAWKEYE 567

watching Chingachgook's heaving back. It's over.

568 CORA 568

alone, kneeling in the meadow. Her eyes downcast...

FADE OUT

FADE IN

569 EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - WIDE REAR SHOT - NEXT DAY 569

Chingachgook's at the edge, facing the endless rolling forests to the west. A haze of sunlight illuminates silver and lead clouds. Hawkeye is a little apart, watching his father. * *

570 HAWKEYE'S POV: CHINGACHGOOK 570 *

speaks to the sky.

CHINGACHGOOK
(Mohican)
Great Spirit and the Maker of all Life... * *

570A ON HAWKEYE + CHINGACHGOOK 570A *

We HEAR Hawkeye's English translation in VOICE OVER: *

CONTINUED

570A CONTINUED 570A

CHINGACHGOOK/HAWKEYE (V.O)
(in English)
...a warrior goes to you swift and straight as an arrow shot into the sun. Welcome him and let him take his place at the council fire of my tribe.
(pause)
He is Uncas, my son.
(pause)
Bid them patience and ask death for speed; for they are all there but one - I, Chingachgook - Last of the Mohicans.

Chingachgook's hands drop to his sides. He lets out his breath with a weariness. His eyes seek Hawkeye's. They hold...

571 CORA 571

is standing, her back to us, in front of a rock-covered grave with a wooden cross. Next to it is Uncas' burial platform.

Cora's silent prayer. Then she pauses, crosses herself. Her emotions are spent. She moves next to Hawkeye. He takes her hand.

572 HAWKEYE + CORA 572

HAWKEYE
Will you go back to England?

CORA
I have nothing to go back for.

Long pause.

HAWKEYE
Then will you stay in America?

She turns to face him.

HAWKEYE
And will you by my wife?

Pause.

CORA
Yes.

They hold each other's eyes. She searches his face.

CORA
Where will we go?

CONTINUED

572 CONTINUED 572

HAWKEYE
Winter with the Delaware, my father's cousins. And in the spring, cross the Ohio and look for land to settle with my father in a new place called Can-tuck-ee.

They move next to Chingachgook. He senses they're beside him. Hawkeye's arm is around her shoulders.

CHINGACHGOOK
The frontier moves with the sun and pushes the red man of the wilderness forests in front of it. Until one day there will be nowhere left. Then our race will be no more, or be not us.
(beat)
The frontier place is for people like my white son and his woman and their children.

HAWKEYE
That's my father's sadness talking.

Hawkeye puts a hand on his shoulder.

CHINGACHGOOK
No. It is true... One day... there will be no more frontier. Then men like you will go, too. Like the Mohicans.
(pause)
And new people will come. Work. Struggle to make their light...
(beat)
One mystery remains.

HAWKEYE
What is that?

Cora, listening to Chingachgook, takes Hawkeye's hand.

CHINGACHGOOK
Will there be anything left to show the world that we ever did exist?

573 REAR SHOT 573 *

Cora stands next to her man. Hawkeye puts his arm around his father. They stare out over the wilderness. *
*

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*
*

THE END *